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1929

## ILGWU Convention Reports and Proceedings, 1929

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## ILGWU Convention Reports and Proceedings, 1929

### Keywords

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, industrial relations, conventions

### Comments

The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union founding convention in 1900 included 11 local delegates representing roughly 2000 members. Reports and Proceedings of the Conventions of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union was published annually from 1900-1908, biennially from 1908-1924, then sporadically until 1937 from which time the convention was held every three years until the union's merger with the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union in 1995 to form UNITE, the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees. In addition to election of officers and committee reports, topics discussed include the working conditions, sweatshops, labor unity, organizing, wages and hours, union labels, boycotts, strikes, women's garment industry, labor relations, internationalism, labor legislation, labor education, women's rights, member benefits, and union health centers. The best available original was selected for digitization. Occasionally the original is difficult to read, missing pages, or partially cut off.

DEC: 2-10, 1929

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REPORT  
OF THE *Proceedings of the annual*  
*General* ~~Executive~~ Board  
TO THE  
TWENTIETH  
CONVENTION  
OF THE  
✓ International Ladies' Garment  
Workers' Union



*Monday, December 2, 1929*

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## To The Delegates Of The Twentieth Convention Of The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union

### Greeting:

For the twentieth time in the past thirty years delegates of the organized women's garment workers of America are assembled in convention to take inventory of conditions in their industry, their organization and markets and to plan and legislate for the further improvement of the living and working standards of the tens of thousands of men and women whom they represent, and for the stabilization and the welfare of their industry as a whole.

Under the laws governing our Union, our conventions are to meet biennially. Owing to the extraordinary situations in our organization and in our industry, however, our conventions, since 1924, have been occurring at irregular periods, the Philadelphia convention of December, 1925, having taken place only nineteen months after the Boston convention of May, 1924, and the Boston convention of 1928 assembling two and a half years after the Philadelphia gathering. The present convention, also, is meeting months ahead of its regular time in conformity with a pledge made in a special manifesto issued to the membership of the International by the General Executive Board in December, 1928, to afford the duly elected representatives of our members an undelayed opportunity for democratic expression of their will and judgment with regard to the most pressing needs of our Union and of our industry.

This convention is, therefore, an extraordinary convention in more than one sense. For the first time in many years we meet in an atmosphere freed of rancor and fraternal discord, with ranks united and our horizon cleared of treacherous obstacles which threatened the very existence of our Union. For the first time in many years, we are gathered at a convention ready to proclaim to the world of Labor that our great organization, after an unhappy period of disruption and humiliating weakness, has emerged strong and militant again, having been saved from destruction by the loyalty, the tireless devotion and the self-sacrifice of its members to take its place once more in the front ranks of the labor unions of America.



The unhappy events of the past half-dozen years are still too fresh in your minds to require detailed recounting. The misery, the disorganization, the hopelessness which pervaded every corner of our industry have affected all of you too closely to need retelling in these pages. The great majority of you, sisters and brothers, were on the front fighting lines during these dark and bitter years striving your hardest and doing your utmost to help the leadership of your Union to save it from the destructive forces that were unleashed against it from every side. You, and the active and loyal trade unionists whom you represent at this convention, have made possible this miraculous reconstruction, this wonderful recovery of our Union. And the General Executive Board does not hesitate to render to you the major portion of the credit for this historic achievement which stands out as the brightest page in the annals of American Labor in recent years.

But behind you, fellow delegates, and behind the leadership of our Union, there stood another great factor, another dominating influence which made this marvelous comeback of the cloakmakers' and dressmakers' organizations not only possible but inevitable. It was the deeply-rooted idealism, the unshakable faith in the hearts and minds of the thousands of our workers in the need of a strong and vigilant trade union, a faith which our enemies had tried so hard to destroy by years of villainous propaganda and slander but could not succeed. It was the spirit of 1910 that had given the cloakmakers their first great organization which, when finally aroused from temporary lethargy and impotence, has asserted itself in a magnificent constructive movement and brought back to life a union that should henceforth stand as an indomitable bulwark of defense of our economic conditions as long as there is need for an organization of workers in our industry.

We shall, therefore, let the facts speak for themselves in the following pages. The dramatic events of the past eighteen months should serve not only to inspire you to further efforts in behalf of your organization but should supply a wealth of authentic material to the historian of this marvelous human achievement, the reconstruction of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. But in addition to a recital of past events, the General Executive Board presents to you in this report a program of action for the future, covering the entire field of our industry, in every trade, city and market.

There is, indeed, a tremendous distance to be covered yet before we may conscientiously declare that we have met fully our duty with regard to all women's garment workers in America. Above all, let us bear in mind that in our biggest center—in New York City—we still have the all-important problem of placing the work conditions in the great dress industry upon a humane, trade union basis.

Having now entered upon a new era of sound achievement, let us so organize our resources that we might, within a reasonably short time, put under our banner every man and woman who are earning their living in our trades—in every market and section of the land. We can do it, if we wholeheartedly concentrate our will upon this effort.

## THE NEW YORK CLOAK INDUSTRY

### Conditions of Industry

The physical aspects of the cloak manufacturing business in New York, the biggest market in the country, have undergone, in the past year and a half, but little change, certainly not for the better. The rapid growth of the jobbing-submanufacturing system which marked the development of the industry since 1923 has continued unabated together with its concurrent evils—the small irresponsible contractors and the destructive competition between these contractors for work at any price, the breakdown of work-standards in the shops, and the shortening of the work-seasons and lengthening of the slack periods between seasons. The natural result of these developments has increased difficulty of control and enforcement of labor conditions.

Actually, we were beginning to face the return of the sweat shop on an extended scale in the cloak industry. The sweat shop, of course, need not be understood here in the old term of tenement-kitchen production of twenty-five years ago. The present-day sweat shop has sprouted out in hundreds of small establishments in big loft buildings which have the outward appearance of decent shops but in which conditions of labor are such that the majority of workers employed in them find it impossible to make even a meager living. These shops frankly owed their existence to the fact that they were able to violate wholesale all union work-terms with regard

to hours, week-work, wage scales and the five-day week. And the degrading effect of these sweat-nests upon the entire cloak industry was such that even in the better shops the average earnings of the workers became lowered despite the tendency in recent years to put in more and more overtime during the spasmodic brief periods of the seasons.

Another disturbing factor which has entered the New York market in the recent years, in addition to the jobber, was the chain-store element. Several of the chain-store systems engaged in retailing of women's apparel, instead of purchasing their stocks from manufacturers and jobbers as in former years, have switched to direct or indirect manufacturing through contractors, picking, as one might expect, the lowest-bidding and least-controlled groups of small producers to whom they could dictate prices and terms. This chain-store control of a substantial and growing part of production in the New York cloak market has added to the demoralization of work-conditions already prevalent in the industry and to the woe and misery of our workers.

An even more recent development, which has grown up as a problem for the union cloak manufacturers in view of the presence of hundreds of sub-standard shops in the industry run on a non-union work basis, was group buying, as represented by the resident buyers for out-of-town retailers. Under uniform union conditions in a given market, the resident buyer presents no disturbing problem to either the union jobber or manufacturer. In a market, as was our market in New York before the strike, where so many non-union shops were in operation, the resident buyer was naturally inclined to look for his merchandise where he could get it cheapest, and that meant the "open" sub-standard shops. The elimination of this type of shop became therefore a subject of vital interest not only to the Union and its members but to the legitimate employer and jobber as well. In order to place a check upon the "free hand" of the resident buyer, it obviously became necessary, first of all, to establish relatively uniform price conditions for the same grade of garments throughout the industry.

Clearly the task of bringing order out of chaos in the New York cloak industry as it presented itself to the leadership of the Union upon our return from the Boston conven-

tion was a stupendous one. The spirit of the members, as a whole, particularly in New York, was far from high, and the decisions adopted by the convention did not appear to have inspired them with too great hopes for the immediate future. We, on our side, had no illusions in this matter, too; we knew that we had an uphill fight on our hands. As an example, we may cite the fact that the 3-day earnings tax, which the convention decided upon, could not even be submitted to the membership for a referendum.

#### Condition of Union

The unvarnished truth must be told that when we returned from Boston in the end of May, 1928, we had less than one-third of the cloakmakers of New York within the organization. True, we had compact organizations in the cutters' branch of the industry, in our Italian local, . . . o. 48; and in the pressers' craft, Local 35. The operators and the finishers, the two most numerous branches of the trade, were only partially organized. Of the eighteen thousand workers belonging to these two crafts, Locals 2 and 9 contained hardly more than seven thousand members in good standing on their rolls. The remaining mass, while not belonging to the Communist outfit, was still outside our organization, still under the sway of apathy, indifference and hopelessness that has dominated the atmosphere in the cloak industry since the Communists started out a half dozen years ago to ruin the cloakmakers' organization in New York. These thousands of cloakmakers, forced to accept any terms of work in sub-standard shops, torn by dissension and malicious propaganda, apparently lost all hope of a better day, embittered and drifting from season to season into ever worse and distressing conditions.

The Union, in addition, had another critical situation to face. To all practical intents and purposes, the New York organization, including the International Office, was nearly bankrupted by the huge debt burden saddled upon it by the irresponsible Communist clique before and during the strike of 1926. This financial yoke, and especially the criminal squandering by the Communist strike misleaders of the employers' securities amounting to about three-quarters of a million dollars, deposited by them as a trust fund as security for the faithful performance of the agreements,



was actually strangling the Union at every step and turn. Every dollar collected in dues, instead of being applied to the legitimate needs of running the organization, had to be given up to liquidate some of the most pressing judgments which continued to pile up on our heads. The Union could not, and would not, repudiate these debts; our sense of honor and our standing as a legitimate American trade union forbade us to take such a step, even though the whole world knew that it was not ourselves but a band of adventurers that was responsible for this colossal debt thrown upon our shoulders.

### Mobilization Starts

In the face of these staggering difficulties, we began our drive for the revival of the Union early in June, 1928. The immediate task before us, upon coming back from the convention, was to transmit this spirit of optimism, the hopeful determination of rebuilding the once great cloakmakers' organization in the New York market, to the thousands of discouraged and disillusioned workers who had wandered away from the old Union and found no place elsewhere. It was missionary work of a great order, a task of morale-uplifting that had to be handled with skill, sincerity and ability. Brother Schlesinger, elected at Boston as executive vice-president in charge of the New York cloak and dress situations, at once set himself to this work. A series of front-page messages under his signature began to appear daily in the Jewish Daily Forward supplemented by a steady stream of leaflets, circulars and articles widely distributed in the cloak "market" streets by volunteer groups of active workers. In these messages, couched in crisp, precise and convincing language, President Schlesinger day after day mercilessly exposed the treason of the Communist undercover agents who were still infesting the cloak "market," mingling with cloakmakers and trying to break down the rising spirit of unionism among them. Counteracting the fake "peace" propaganda of the Communist henchmen, President Schlesinger appealed to the cloakmakers to rally to the standard of the old Union and to unite for the coming fight against every selfish, union-hating and demoralizing element in the industry. This press and literature campaign carried

on by President Schlesinger produced a remarkable effect upon the cloakmakers. It was a hammering attack that not only heartened and inspired the friends of the Union but sent fear and dismay into the heart of every open or hidden enemy who was still playing the old Communist game of hate and disruption under the mask of "revolutionism." Within a brief space of time, President Schlesinger's daily messages to the cloakmakers became the most eagerly discussed topic of discussion in the cloak "market," anxiously looked for every noon-hour by throngs who drew courage and inspiration from them.

#### 40-hour Week Put Into Force

Our first practical problem, shortly after returning from Boston, was to put into operation the forty-hour, five-day week in the cloak industry of New York.

On May 25, 1928, we held, for this purpose, our first conference with the leaders of the Industrial Council to discuss the enactment of the 40-hour week, which, according to the agreement, was to go into effect on June 1, 1928. At that meeting, we quickly discovered that the "inside" manufacturers were not at all anxious to live up to this arrangement, if they could evade it, and were inclined to regard it rather lightly, as a "scrap of paper" which the International neither would nor could enforce. But the leadership of the Union took a firm stand and wouldn't listen to compromise. The havoc and demoralization which the Communist clique wrought in the Union and in the shops through their criminal mismanagement of the 1926 strike offered no excuse or alibi to the employers in June, 1928, to dodge a solemn undertaking which the cloakmakers were not prepared to abandon. In vain did the employers interpose all sorts of objections, reducing finally their opposition to a demand for arbitration—the leaders of the Union, supported wholeheartedly by the mass of workers, refused to yield an inch of ground. By June 1, the machinery of the Joint Board was put into motion to enforce the 40-hour five-day week in all shops.

The inaugural of the 40-hour week was turned into a demonstration for the Union's revival in the cloak industry on June 6, when the big auditorium of the Manhattan Opera House was jammed to capacity with cloakmakers, while

thousands of other Union members were unable to gain admission into the hall. This big meeting, first of its size in several years, proved conclusively that the New York cloak-makers were beginning to stir and were eager to rebuild a union in their industry. The meeting, which was addressed by President William Green of the A. F. of L., the then president Morris Sigman, Benjamin Schlesinger, Salvatore Ninfo, Morris Hillquit, Jacob Panken, Julius Hochman, and was presided over by David Dubinsky, adopted a resolution pledging loyalty and cooperation to the organization. Brother Schlesinger sounded the keynote of the meeting by declaring: "We have won the 40-hour week, but that's only a beginning. What is most essential is to make this Union again feared and respected in the industry, a strong influence in every shop. We shall not rest until every union work-standard has become effective and operative in every factory where cloaks or dresses are made."

The dispute on the 40-hour, five-day week, raised by the Industrial Council, reached final settlement shortly thereafter, when, after hearings on June 12, 1928, Mr. Raymond V. Ingersoll, Impartial Chairman of the New York Cloak Industry, ruled that the 40-hour week is so clearly a part of the collective agreement that "it is not a matter for arbitration."

It must, nevertheless, be stated that while the establishment of the 40-hour week became an accomplished fact in all the fully controlled and even partly controlled shops, there still remained a large number of sub-standard and demoralized shops where the new rule governing work hours remained for a long time a dead letter, and against which the Union, with the advent of the new season, shortly thereafter undertook an active enforcement drive.

#### **Reefermakers Get Charter**

The long standing reefermakers' problem which has been a disturbing factor in the cloakmakers' organization in New York City since the charter of the old Local 17 was revoked by the General Executive Board in 1924, was among the first problems calling for undelayed solution, along with the general mobilization work launched by the General Executive Board.

The Boston convention, as you recall, appointed a committee of four representative delegates from cloakmakers' unions in markets outside of New York City, which was empowered, under the chairmanship of Vice-President Matthew Woll of the A. F. of L., to make a thorough investigation of the claims of the reefermakers for a separate charter and the counterclaims of those who opposed such a charter, and to render a binding decision. The committee consisted of Brothers Ben Gilbert of St. Louis, Louis Friend of Cleveland, Max Novack of Chicago and George Rubin of Philadelphia. This committee got to work on August 2, 1928, and began hearings at the General Office.

For two weeks the committee visited 63 shops which manufacture wholly or in part "reefers" in order to obtain first-hand information that would enable them to form an independent opinion on the merits of the claims of the contending sides. Among those who appeared at the hearings, arguing for or against the granting of a charter to the former members of Local 17, were ex-officers of that local, several of the leading Joint Board officers, officers of Local 2, the Cloak Operators' organization, and several members of the General Executive Board. The hearings lasted nearly three weeks.

The decision of the committee, drafted by Brother Woll and approved by the entire committee, was presented by him to the General Executive Board at its second quarterly meeting, in New York City, on October 22, 1928. The decision favored the granting of a separate charter to New York reefermakers, giving them jurisdiction over all shops where "infants', children's and reefer garments up to size 16 or 17 are made," leaving all matters in dispute with regard to classification of shops to a mixed jurisdictional committee. The decision, we believe, is important to be reproduced in full. It follows:

#### REPORT AND FINDINGS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REEFER MAKERS

At the last convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union there was presented to that convention Resolution No. 105 dealing with the merger of Local Union No. 17 with Local Union No. 2 and calling for the re-establishment of former Local Union No. 17.



This convention referred the resolution and subject-matter embraced to a Special Committee for investigation to embrace both industrial and organizational considerations.

The Special Committee, herewith reporting, did investigate the subject in dispute. It conducted a direct investigation into a number of shops, interviewed many presumed to be fully conversant with industrial and organizational requirements, read and analyzed former opinions, recommendations and decisions of the many official bodies and committees having dealt with the subject involved. It also conducted open hearings and all parties at interest were given a free and full opportunity of presenting whatever information might throw light upon the subject under investigation.

Based upon this extensive and all-embracing investigation, the Special Committee wishes at the outset to state that it finds no cause whatever for criticism of the decision made by the General Executive Board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union some three years ago. To the contrary, it believes that the decision then made was fully justified.

Having reached that conclusion the Special Committee considered if events and changes since that time were such as to justify the continuance of the merger of Local Union No. 17 with Local Union No. 2, or if changed conditions and events were such as to recommend the present separation of Local Union No. 2 into the former groups known as Local Union No. 17 and Local Union No. 2, and if so, how the jurisdiction of both should be defined and how best jurisdictional controversies between them might be avoided or speedily adjusted in order that the greatest possible degree of unity and harmony might prevail amongst all local unions of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, situated in New York City.

In determining that issue of Special Committee embraced not alone industrial but, as well, organizational and political considerations.

Based solely upon industrial considerations, the majority of the Special Committee do not believe that a separation of Local Union No. 2 into Local Union No. 17 and Local Union No. 2 is justified.

Based upon organizational—which may be more accurately termed political considerations—a greater majority of the Special Committee believe that the separation of Local Union No. 2 into Local Union No. 17 and Local Union No. 2 is justified.

The Special Committee by this greater majority likewise believe that the political considerations are of greater importance than the industrial considerations involved and therefore value these political considerations of sufficient force to warrant the following findings and decision:

1. That there be re-established a separate Local Union to be known as Infants', Children's and Reefer Makers.

It is the opinion of the Special Committee that the jurisdiction of this separate local union be confined to infants', children's and reefer garments up to size 16 or 17, and that all other garments of whatever kind, quality and size 17 or over now under the jurisdiction of the merged Local Union No. 2 and No. 17, should be the work of members of Local Union No. 2.

2. That neither Local Union No. 2 nor the separate local union of Infants', Children's and Reefer Makers should have exclusive jurisdiction over any shop, plant or factory, but that the exclusive jurisdiction be confined to the work involved and as hereinbefore indicated.

3. That in the event of any dispute between Local Union No. 2 and the separate local union of Infants', Children's and Reefer Makers herein decided, regarding application of respective jurisdictional rights or claims as hereinbefore defined, or arriving thereof, whether these disputes relate to the work or work people to be employed, any and all such disputes shall be referred to the Joint Board for adjustment, subject to appeal, review and final decision by the General Executive Board.

(a) To assure prompt and equitable adjustment of any and all disputes herein referred to, a Standing Committee shall be selected to be known as the Jurisdictional Committee whose duty it shall be to investigate immediately any and every complaint regarding or involving any charge of transgression of the respective jurisdictional rights hereinbefore defined. This Jurisdictional Committee shall confine its investigation to matters of fact and findings shall be solely of a factual character and must be filed with the Joint Board and presented at its next meeting immediately following the filing of the complaint.

(b) The Jurisdictional Committee shall be selected or elected in the following manner: Local Union No. 2 shall select or elect one member from amongst its officers or members; the separate local union of Infants', Children's and Reefer Makers shall select or elect one member from amongst its officers or members, and the Joint Board shall elect the third member from amongst the officers or members of the Joint Board.

<sup>4</sup>  
(c) The findings of the Jurisdictional Committee shall be factual in character and it shall be without power to render a final or binding opinion or judgment.

(d) In the event that Local Union No. 2 or the separate local union of Infants', Children's and Reefer Makers shall fail or refuse to select or elect their respective member on the Jurisdictional Committee within a period of 30 days after the local union of Infants', Children's and Reefer Makers is formed and functions, and any time within 30 days thereafter, then the Joint Board shall fill such vacancy by electing an officer or member of the Local Union having failed or declined to select or elect such member on the Jurisdictional Committee. In the event an officer or member so selected by the Joint Board fails or declines to serve, then the Jurisdictional Committee shall proceed as though all members had been selected or elected.

(e) In the event the Joint Board fails or declines to render a decision upon any complaint of the nature herein stipulated and filed in accordance with this procedure, within a period of two weeks after the complaint is filed, either the accusing party or accused party is free to refer the subject of the complaint to the General Board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union for immediate consideration and decision.

4. That this decision, its observance and enforcement shall be undertaken immediately and under the sole direction and supervision of the General Board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; such direction and supervision of the General Board to be exercised until in its judgment this decision shall be fully observed and carried out by all concerned.

It is the firm belief and conviction of the Special Committee that unless all members of the International and Local Unions, as well as their officers and respective unions involved or concerned in this long-standing dispute, unite in the observance and enforcement of this decision, that its work will accomplish no more than that of former committees, commissions, investigations and decisions. There must be the willingness to abide by decisions if the labor movement is to survive and prosper. It is essential for the welfare of all and to the strengthening of the trade union movement that all submerge their individual judgments and convictions for the common good. Neither is it proper or just that any one should avail himself or herself of any opportunity presented, whether real or imaginary, to find fault, criticize, much less deride another who may have or may still differ with this decision or have differed with former decisions.

As a voluntary institution, finding our basis of strength in unity, goodwill and complete cooperation, the individual must give way to methods by which the will and judgment of the majority may be expressed directly or indirectly.

In the matter of the desire of Local Union No. 91 to change and enlarge its jurisdiction, the Special Committee finds no reason or justification for such change or extension of jurisdiction, and so rules.

Fraternally submitted,

MATTHEW WOLL,  
Chairman.

ABRAHAM GILBERT,  
MAX NOVACK,  
LOUIS FRIEND,  
GEORGE RUBIN.

To this report Brother Matthew Woll added later the following brief statement:

"When we speak of political considerations, we do not mean considerations of anyone seeking office or retaining office, but rather dealing with the question of Communism as spoken of at the meetings and in the briefs filed. My attention has been called to rumors interpreting this term as looking for jobs. The Committee does not use this term in that sense.

"The Committee assumed that the convention did refer the jurisdiction of infant coats to it and that it was within the province of the Committee. However, should the Board decide that it was not properly before the Committee, or should the Board decide to make any other changes in the report, it could do so. The Committee did that which it deemed best and justifiable."

A sub-committee of the General Executive Board, shortly thereafter, worked out a plan for the effective transfer of all the former members of Local 17 to the new local. This plan was laid before a committee of Local 2 and former active members of Local 17 and was adopted by both sides. This preliminary work over, President Schlesinger and Secretary Baroff formally turned over, on January 4, 1929, to the reefer-makers a charter for an independent local body to be known as Local 17.

Thus this controversy which has stirred up a tremendous amount of animosity within the Union, creating factional bitterness and adding to the confusion which was troubling the organization, finally came to an end.

#### **Morris Sigman Resigns**

An event of major importance in the life of the International, which took place at the October, 1928, meeting of



the General Executive Board in New York City, was the resignation of Morris Sigman from the presidency of the I. L. G. W. U., a post he occupied for five and a half years, since he was called to the leadership of the Union in January, 1923.

Morris Sigman's resignation came not entirely unexpected. His opposition to the rechartering of the reefermakers in New York City as a separate local was adamant, and he found it incompatible with his conviction, as he openly stated, to continue as head of the Union after he had been overruled. In addition, there had been other, less obvious reasons why Brother Sigman had found it no longer in line with his way of thinking to remain president. During the five and a half years of his presidency, President Sigman had clashed time and again with several New York Joint Board leaders who resented his intervention in the management of the Joint Board on the ground of local autonomy. It is no secret also that ex-President Sigman resented the return to office and influence in one or two locals of men whose leadership he had sharply opposed in the past.

The G. E. B. accepted Brother Sigman's resignation with great reluctance, only after it concluded that his mind was firmly fixed in this matter. Upon the acceptance of his resignation, the General Executive Board issued the following statement to the membership outlining its own attitude to Brother Sigman's withdrawal from active leadership of the International. It follows:

**Sisters and Brothers:**

You all know of the resignation of President Morris Sigman as chief officer of our International Union. You are equally, no doubt, informed of the reasons which caused him to terminate his official connection with our Union at this time.

The General Executive Board has accepted President Sigman's resignation after it became convinced that his decision is final and not subject to be considered. All the members of the General Executive Board feel keenly the loss of his services to our organization, which have been of such great value during the twenty years he has been within its ranks and at its helm.

The General Executive Board has appointed a committee of five to work out a procedure for the election of a new president of the International Union, and this committee will report back to the General Executive Board for approval at its continued sessions.

We are fully aware that the enemies of our organization will attempt to make capital out of the resignation of President Sigman by making it appear that our Union has remained with a divided leadership and that there is no unity in our ranks. We, therefore, wish to assure the membership of our Union that the General Executive Board is fully conscious of the great responsibility of leadership that rests upon its shoulders today and that it is fully united to meet the paramount industrial and organizational problems that are facing our Union today in New York City and in every other market.

The General Executive Board, still continuing its sessions, is preparing full and adequate plans for meeting every emergency and every industrial situation along constructive and fruitful trade union lines in every center where our men and women are toiling for a living.

Sisters and Brothers! The General Executive Board looks towards you with confidence in your cooperation and loyalty and faithful allegiance to your great old organization, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

SALVATORE NINFO, First Vice-President

ABRAHAM BAROFF, General Secretary-Treasurer.

Benjamin Schlesinger	} Vice-Presidents
Harry Wander	
Luigi Antonini	
Max Amdur	
Morris Bials	
Joseph Breslaw	
David Dubinsky	
Mollie Friedman	
Harry Greenberg	
David Gingold	
Julius Hochman	
Jacob Halperin	
Charles Kreindler	
Philip Kramer	
Abraham Kirzner	
Elias Reisberg	

#### Morris Sigman's Letter of Resignation

The following is the letter of resignation read by ex-president Sigman to the G. E. B., which appeared on the following day in several New York newspapers, and later in our own official press. Notwithstanding objections raised by several members of the G. E. B. to the publication of this statement by Bro. Sigman, disputing the accuracy of some allegations

contained in it, and asserting that it might hurt the Union, President Sigman insisted that it be published:

October 25, 1928.

To the Members of the General Executive Board,  
International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

Greetings:

Please accept my resignation as President of the International Ladies' Garment Worker's Union, to take effect before the adjournment of this meeting.

In resigning as President, I deem it my duty to give to the General Executive Board and to the membership at large a brief summary of the reasons that prompt me to take this step.

Nearly six years ago, I assumed the post of President of the International Union at the unanimous request of the leaders and membership of our Union. My attitude, views and policies with regard to the Labor Movement as a whole, and particularly with regard to our International Union, were then well known to everyone. As Secretary-Treasurer, Vice-President of the International Union and as General Manager of the New York Joint Board, I had very often expressed my views on the industrial and organizational difficulties facing our Union, and my conceptions how to solve them.

It was my fate to become President of the International at a time when our Union began to show the effects of the decline of the industry, caused by revolutionary production changes in it and all the many abusive practices that were carried on by individuals and groups within our organization. This, coupled with the pernicious propaganda for the capture of our Union by the Communists, precipitated a grave danger to its existence.

A very important factor in the demoralization of our Cloak Union in New York was the constant fight, turmoil and discontent caused by the existence of three cloak operators' locals in New York. Our convention proceedings and the minutes of the General Executive Board are filled with the story of sixteen years of wrangles, eruptions and damage caused to the morale and influence of our organization by this division within the operators' craft.

I do not need to stress here the fact that my opposition to this source of division and dissension in our Union was due to nothing else but to a desire to eradicate this evil in the interest of progress and advance of our organization. I knew from the efforts made many times before to abolish this dual system of organization in the operating crafts in New York, and the means

and methods used by Local 17 and its sympathizers to frustrate the establishment of one operators' local in New York, that this was no easy task. Had I chosen to give first consideration to my personal comfort and convenience, I should have left things alone, but this would have been an attempt to evade responsibility, which is contrary to my nature. I, therefore, deemed it my sacred obligation to do all in my power to right existing wrongs and followed this course without hesitancy.

I was, therefore, glad that the 17th Biennial Convention instructed the General Executive Board to settle once and for all the jurisdictional dispute of the cloak operators of New York.

The only logical solution we could find was the merging of the Locals Nos. 1, 11 and 17 into one operators' local. This was done.

I am sincerely convinced that this merging has removed a long standing evil from the life of our Union, and has been of great benefit to the Union as a whole. The former Reefer Makers' Local has been an unhealthy growth on the body of our Union, and its so-called jurisdictional claims to a large number of shops where its members had a monopoly on jobs, were flimsy and arbitrary. On the whole, its existence meant continued unfairness toward the great bulk of our members, whether operators or finishers. The methods it employed to perpetuate its

special privileges had a demoralizing effect on our New York Joint Board locals in particular, and on the International as a whole.

Now, after all these efforts and plans to solve this irritating condition, we are faced with the re-establishment of a dual and conflicting local, and start the whole thing over again.

And for what reason?

The Special Committee in its report submitted to the General Executive Board states in unmistakable terms that it could not find any industrial justification for the establishment of another cloak operators' local, but justifies its recommendation for the granting of a charter on political grounds.

¶ This decision I must in all honesty accept as basically wrong and conflicting with the organizational principles for which I have stood all these years.

To this I must in candidness add that other circumstances in conjunction with the above make my continuance as President of the International impossible.

When in 1926, after the disastrous strike led by the Communists, the International was called upon to take charge and save the Union, we succeeded in uniting into a constructive and

efficient army to meet this grave task. The success of this united action, in spite of the tremendous difficulties, was obvious at once.

Had we continued in this manner, I am sure we would have been at this time very near our goal. Unfortunately, no sooner did the Union begin to re-establish itself, when some of its former local and joint board officers, whose retirement from the Union I regarded as a distinct gain to the organization, have returned to office and to activity. With this, the old game of special privileges and abusive practices that in my judgment had undermined the vitality of our Union in the past, began to reappear.

The spring session of 1928 was a great opportunity for constructive work in our New York Joint Board. Some of our New York local leaders have in preparation for the Convention chosen that time to start a malicious propaganda and whispering campaign to create false issues. The result of which was a demoralizing effect upon our membership that must have gladdened the hearts of our enemies. And the Union, instead of recuperating, and gaining strength, was tremendously weakened.

Under the influence of that unwholesome pre-convention campaign, the Convention itself naturally could not achieve what we had hoped to expect from it, nor have matters improved since the Convention.

Under these circumstances, I feel that I can render no service to the International.

In leaving I have nothing but the best interests of the Union at heart.

We all know that every effort of the Communists to completely destroy our Union, including their last effort to build a dual scab union, have met with complete failure. I believe that our Union can be rebuilt, provided all efforts are united for this purpose.

In conclusion, permit me to express my deep gratitude to you, our membership and to all to whom our Union is an ideal worth sacrificing for.

I am grateful for the opportunity that was given me to do my share in the Labor movement.

With the warmest feelings of true comradeship to all our members, and with genuine good wishes for your continued progress and advancement for our Union, I am

Fraternally yours,

M. SIGMAN,  
President.



The General Executive Board, thereupon unanimously tendered Vice-President Benj. Schlesinger the post of chief executive of the Union. Bro. Schlesinger, who himself had offered his resignation before the Board meeting and during the meeting on the ground of failing health, at first firmly declined, but later was prevailed upon to accept, after he was assured of genuine and undivided support by every member of the G. E. B. This marked the third time of Brother Schlesinger's election to the presidency of the I. L. G. W. U. He was first elected president of the organization in 1903, and served for one year; his second election occurred at the Cleveland convention in May, 1914, and he remained in office until January, 1923.

Immediately upon assuming charge of affairs in the General Office, President Schlesinger took steps to raise some funds with which to insure both the International and the Joint Board against an actual financial breakdown. The need of money was so great that every normal activity of the Union was stifled or badly curtailed. Bro. Schlesinger succeeded in obtaining money through several loans—\$25,000 from the Forward Association, \$25,000 from the Amalgamated Bank, and \$100,000 from private sources—and these loans materially eased up for a time the running of the organization, permitting a resumption of the mobilization work which the General Executive Board had started in the cloak industry.

#### Reorganization Issue Looms Up

The right to reorganize ten per cent of their working staffs, conceded to the employers by the Communists in the agreement of 1926, emphasized stronger than anything else the defeat which the cloakmakers suffered in that 26-weeks long conflict.

In simple terms that concession amounted to a privilege to discharge ten per cent of all workers in any shop employing 35 or more workers at stated semi-annual periods without having to furnish a cause for such action. This right to discharge without cause, outlawed by the Union in the cloak trade for fifteen years, and now again in force as a result of the 1926 settlement, while it has not resulted factually in large displacements of workers, has, nevertheless, had a depressing effect upon the morale of the cloakmakers. The

very fact that the employer had such a right has acted as silent intimidation, as the workers could not fail to be impressed with the fact that unless they went out of their way to please the boss, they might be slated to go at the end of the season. It stands to reason, therefore, that even the more active men and women in the shops should have fallen under the spell of this constant threat and that it should have influenced their attitude and course of action.

Naturally enough, as the term of the 1926 agreement was coming to an end, the cloakmakers began to clamor for a modification of this right to periodic discharges without cause. When we returned from Boston, we found among other things that the New York cloakmakers were making up their minds to resist, when the time came to renew the agreement, this clause in the new contract even to the point of a strike, and the Union, especially through the literature waged by Brother Schlesinger, at once began to mobilize this discontent with the "reorganization" right into a concrete demand for its repeal or modification.

Among the other burning problems we were faced with was the problem of restoring a greater measure of union control in the shops. There had functioned in the cloak industry a joint committee of all organized factors—the associations and our own organization—under the chairmanship of Mr. Ingersoll, but this committee was largely of an advisory or consultative nature. We reached a decision that the industry must learn without delay our stand, that the sweat shop in all its forms must go, and that union control must be reestablished. Above all, the idea had to be driven home to the employers that a strong union that would unite all the workers in the industry was on the way and could not be much longer sidetracked.

During the early summer of 1928, we met several times with this joint committee and laid before it our demands that the employers show a readier spirit to cooperate in eliminating chaos and disorder from the trade. Invariably our point was sustained by the committee, and the statements issued by its chairman, Mr. Ingersoll, following these meetings, created a bracing and wholesome effect throughout the industry. During that summer, the Joint Board, with the aid of all locals, organized and put into the field a large committee of volunteers for

the double purpose of guarding the recently introduced 40-hour week and for carrying on a lively union propaganda among the workers. Energetic Saturday morning patrolling of the cloak "market" streets under the leadership of Vice-President Breslaw, which created a stir by its vigilant and thorough work, was supplemented by a dues drive, under the direction of Vice-President Dubinsky, when the fall season got under way. Scores of meetings were held every night to discuss with workers shop conditions, and the stage was gradually being set up for the more decisive events that were to follow.

An interesting feature in connection with the preparatory activity carried on by the Union in the summer and fall of 1928 were the public forums—actually big open meetings—to which cloakmakers holding all views and opinions—union members and non-union—were invited. These forums were held in all parts of the city, mainly on Sunday mornings, at which President Schlesinger, vice-president Dubinsky, vice-president Breslaw, who was the chairman of the open forum committee, together with several other leaders, talked straight from the shoulder to thousands of workers about the external and internal woes and troubles of the organization and the industry, inviting discussion from the floor, eagerly answering questions and silencing hecklers by clear facts and intelligent argument.

#### **The Pre-strike Campaign Is On**

During the Fall of 1928 and in the early Winter, the issues in the cloak industry between the workers and the employers began to assume concrete shape. The fact that only another few months remained before the agreements with the associations in the industry would have to be renewed stimulated widespread interest among the workers and prompted the General Executive Board to formulate a definite set of demands to be presented to the cloak employers as soon as practicable.

Without loss of time, President Schlesinger began a series of conferences with all the executive boards of the cloak locals, and later with shop chairmen and active rank and file workers, to whom a new program of action was submitted for discussion and action. These meetings grew in volume and interest, culminating finally in another Manhattan Opera House meet-



ing, on December 12, 1928, which was attended by thousands of workers who voiced their unqualified approval of the demands prepared for submission to the employers' associations. This meeting also acclaimed with enthusiasm a manifesto-appeal addressed by the General Executive Board to the cloakmakers announcing a new "open-door" policy with regard to readmission into the Union of all former members. The manifesto, besides, contained a specific pledge that local elections in all cloak and dress locals would be held in February and that a regular convention of the I. L. G. W. U. would be summoned in 1929, after the cloak situation had been completely adjusted. It follows in full:

To the Cloakmakers and Dressmakers of New York

December 12, 1928.

Our agreement with the employers ends on the first of next June.

The Union has just submitted to all employers' associations a set of demands for a new agreement.

We demand an increase of \$5 per week in the minimum scales and the establishment of effective machinery for the strict enforcement of the week-work system, wages, hours, over-time payments, holidays and other union conditions in all shops in the industry.

We demand that the reorganization right should be more strictly limited and changed in such a way that it cannot be used as a whip over the workers, nor as an instrument to reduce the working force in the shop or to cut down wages.

We demand that manufacturers and jobbers should deal with only such outside shops as have obtained from the Union a written certificate to the effect that they live up to all union standards and conditions.

We demand that the unemployment insurance fund be re-established and maintained without contributions by the workers, and we present other demands for the relief of the desperate conditions in which our workers find themselves at this time.

Will the Union succeed in its demands? The answer lies with you.

There was a time when the cloakmakers of New York could force the employers to grant them all conditions which were necessary to enable them to make a decent living and to lead a human existence. But during the last few years the cloak-

makers have lost much of their old-time spirit and good sense. Instead of concentrating all their thoughts and efforts on the hard daily struggle to maintain and improve their standards, they have allowed themselves to be carried away by fanciful theories and dissensions.

The strike of 1926 has left the Union weakened and disrupted, and the employers have been quick to take advantage of the situation. The labor standards in our trade, which we have built up through fifteen years of concerted work and heroic struggles, fighting for every inch of the ground, have been broken down by one savage blow—and now we have to begin at the beginning.

Wake up, cloakmakers! While you are discussing theories and dividing your forces by petty internal dissension, your wages are sinking and your living conditions become intolerable.

It is high time that you lay aside all personal, political and tactical differences and once more unite as a man in support of the common cause for which we were organized—the fight for economic justice and human rights of the workers in our industry and their families.

The General Executive Board of the International is determined to do everything in its power to induce the cloak and dressmakers to forget their old grudges and to enable them to rebuild their organizations and to make them more powerful than ever.

With that end in view we have called on all local unions in the cloak and dress industry:

1. To re-instate with full membership rights all former members who will oblige themselves to adhere to the Constitution of the Union and not to act in the Union under orders of outside organizations. No worker shall be barred on account of his political opinions or past dissensions.
2. To facilitate the readmission of all such former members, we directed the local unions to re-instate them up to February 1st, 1929, on payment of 9 months' dues—payment to be accepted in easy installments.
3. To give all members, including those re-instated, a free and equal opportunity to participate in the administration and affairs of the Union, the local and Joint Board elections have been postponed until the first week in February, 1929, and every precaution will be taken to make these elections absolutely fair and impartial.
4. The elections will be supervised by representatives of the respective local unions, the Joint Board, the General Executive Board, a Committee of Shop Chairmen and an impartial committee composed of persons in no way connected with the Union who enjoy general public confidence.

5. As soon as our present negotiations with the employers are finished, the General Executive Board will call a regular Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union for the purpose of selecting general officers and to enable the chosen delegates to shape the policies and actions of our International in such a way as will accord with the desire of the members.

Brothers and Sisters, we appeal to you not to throw away the only opportunity we have to repair the frightful damage which has been caused in our ranks in the last unhappy three years.

GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD  
INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION,  
BENJAMIN SCHLESINGER, Pres.

After the reading of this statement by President Schlesinger, the big meeting adopted a ringing resolution to give "their fullest and undivided cooperation to President Schlesinger and to all the leaders of our Union to carry out successfully the industrial program outlined in the statement and to cooperate wholeheartedly in the bringing about of complete harmony and unity in our ranks, so that our Union might again rise to the high standard of efficiency, power and influence as a bulwark of defense to all our workers in their struggle to maintain themselves and their dependents on a decent level of life and work."

Earlier in the day, a meeting of all the executive boards of the cloak and dress locals affiliated with the New York Joint Board discussed the series of demands presented to the employers and the manifesto issued to former members and endorsed it with unanimity.

The following is the text of the letter containing the demands presented to the Industrial Council (organization of the "inside" cloak manufacturers) and to the American Cloak & Suit Manufacturers' Association (the sub-manufacturers' and contractors' group):

December 12, 1928

Gentlemen:

The collective agreement between your Association and our Union, which expires on the 1st of next month, provides that either party desiring to modify the agreement at the expiration of the same shall notify the other of such desire at least three months prior to the expiration date.

In pursuance of this provision we herewith submit to your Association a statement of modifications which we desire to make to our collective agreement.

The notice is given to you in ample time in order to afford the contracting parties an opportunity for a full deliberation of our proposals and for a thorough survey and discussion of certain conditions in our industry, which in our opinion call for effective and immediate remedies in the interests of all parties concerned.

From our point of view the period which has lapsed since the date of our last agreement has been the most disastrous in our experience in recent years. It has been marked by persistent unemployment unusual even in our highly seasonal industry. The average earnings of the workers have sunk to a point below the most modest subsistence level, and standards of hours and other conditions of employment provided for in our agreement have in many cases been ignored. It is no exaggeration to say that the conditions of the workers employed in the cloak and suit industry in this city are at this time more precarious and intolerable than they have been in many years.

The unfair and unregulated labor conditions inevitably make for a general demoralization of our industry and also affect the fair employers.

We are frank to admit that the unfortunate turn of the situation was to a considerable extent due to the internal weakness of the unions brought about by conditions, useless to recount at this time. Suffice it to say that our unions are now taking steps to bring back our organization to the point of its former numerical strength and moral cohesion and beyond it.

Another element which has already largely contributed to the intolerable situation in our industry is to be found in the special reorganization rights of the employers contained in our present agreement and in the unfair manner in which that right was exercised, or rather, abused by many employers.

The reorganization rights granted to the employers free from review were adopted for the sole purpose of affording the employer a certain liberty of choice of his workers. It was never intended to be used as a whip over the workers and as an instrument to force down the general level of wages in the industry. Such, however, has been the undeniable effect of the reorganization clause as handled by numerous employers. Not by way of exception but as a rule bodies of workers have been told by employers that they would be included in the next reorganization unless they would accept a substantial wage cut, and in almost all cases the workers had no chance but to accept.

The result has been a general and substantial lowering of actual earnings.

In the month of March, 1925, when the Governor's Advisory Commission published the first comprehensive survey and report of the conditions in our industry, the average rate of wages actually earned by the workers exceeded the minimum union scale by an average of about \$6 per week for each worker. The minimum scale adopted in our collective agreement was then of little practical importance.

Today the average wages actually earned by our workers are practically equal to the minimum scale and often fall below it.

The unintended and undesired effect of the reorganization clause in practical operation has been a revival of the unregulated and pernicious competition for jobs among the workers, which in turn stimulates the growth of the small, irresponsible and uncontrollable sub-standard shops.

In short, our industry is threatened with a reversion to the sweat-shop system unless both workers and fair employers take immediate and energetic measures to check the dangerous tendency.

We, therefore, submit the following requests for the modification of our present agreement:—

1. (a) An increase in the minimum scale of wages by \$5 per week. In view of the fact above stated that the minimum wage scale is coming closer and closer to the actual wages, the earnings of our workers after such increase would still fall below those reported by the Governor's Commission over three years ago.

The average period of employment in the industry as shown in 1925 was somewhat less than two-thirds. It is safe to say that it has not exceeded sixty per cent (60%) since the date of our present collective agreement.

(b) Ways and means should be devised for checking and enforcing the payment of stipulated wages through the entire industry. For that purpose we propose a Joint Control Board for periodical examinations of all shops under the direction and supervision of the Impartial Chairman in our industry.

2. The Right of Reorganization should be materially restricted and its exercise should be surrounded with proper safeguards against abuse. Reorganization should never be allowed to be used as a cover for discrimination against workers for Union activity, to bring about a lowering of the wage level or a reduction of the total number of the workers employed in the shops, and the workers displaced should have a first claim to re-employment. To accomplish the latter object



and to equalize, as nearly as possible, the opportunities to work for all workers, we request that all new workers be engaged through a Labor Bureau operated by the Union.

3. The Unemployment Insurance Fund should be re-established under impartial management and should be supported solely by contributions from employers. With the growing periods of unemployment in our industry some form of systematic relief for the hardest-hit victims is indispensable. The workers are in no condition to give up any part of their meager wages. Unemployment relief is a proper and legitimate charge on the industry. Neither the producers nor the consumers of garments can expect a body of workers to hold themselves in readiness for their service all year round and to bear the whole brunt of suffering and privation in times of enforced idleness.

4. The creation of an effective joint machinery for the elimination of non-union production. Our investigations show that hundreds of shops have sprung up in which piece work is the prevailing system and which operate in utter disregard of wages, hours and other working standards supposedly established in the industry. These shops work untold harm to the workers and fair employers alike. They must be suppressed.

We request the adoption of a clause in our new agreement which will prohibit giving work to any shop that does not have a written certificate from the Union to the effect that it complies with union standards and conditions.

May we ask that you call a conference for the consideration of these requests and of any other suggestions for the improvement of conditions in our industry, within ten days from the receipt of this notice as provided for in our agreement.

Yours very truly,

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION,  
BENJAMIN SCHLESINGER, President

JOINT BOARD CLOAK, SKIRT, DRESS & REEFER MAKERS'  
UNION,  
ISIDOR NAGLER, General Manager.

A similar letter with some changes was also sent to the Merchants Ladies' Garment Association, the jobbers.

#### The Quarter Million Dollar Bond Loan

Following right after the Manhattan Opera House meeting, the General Executive Board on the initiative of President Schlesinger, made a very interesting and far-reaching move towards the financial rehabilitation of the Union.

It namely decided to issue a three-year five-per cent bond loan for \$250,000 to be placed on sale on December 31, 1928, the bonds to be issued in \$50, \$100 and \$500 denominations and to mature on December 31, 1931. From the outset, President Schlesinger declared that if this bond issue, the first direct appeal for a popular loan ever made by our International to its members, is to be a success, the bulk of it would have to be raised among the rank and file of the workers.

The bond issue was hailed with enthusiasm by the membership of the Union. Within two months, the International succeeded in realizing about \$135,000 from the sale of bonds to its members and to a number of friendly organizations and individuals. Entire shops bought blocks of bonds, for cash and on installment terms, displaying a spirit of confidence in the organization which has not been witnessed in New York for many years past. The cutters' local, No. 10, has distinguished itself particularly in this respect, its membership, under the guidance of vice-president Dubinsky, having bought over \$30,000 worth of bonds, which placed it easily in the lead of all other locals. Large subscriptions also came from other cities where the I. L. G. W. U. has organizations. Thus the Cleveland Joint Board subscribed to \$7,500.00 worth of bonds; Chicago paid for an allotment of \$11,000; Philadelphia bought \$5,650; Boston took bonds for \$6,500, despite the fact that the Boston locals at that time found themselves in a precarious situation. Other cities where bonds were sold to our own members were Toronto, Montreal, Baltimore, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and St. Louis.

The success of this internal loan, aside from the fact that it laid the foundation for a strike chest, also had a wholesome psychological effect on our workers and our industry. It served as a barometer of revived union interest among the cloakmakers and the dressmakers in New York and elsewhere, and as advance notice to the manufacturers that the International and the New York Joint Board were ready to stand their ground during the forthcoming negotiations.

#### Elections Held in All New York Locals

In the meantime the General Executive Board proceeded to carry out another measure, which it had promised to the

New York members, namely, impartial and carefully supervised elections in all the cloak and dress locals.

The proclamation of the Union opened its doors wide to every upright-thinking worker in the trade not directly affiliated with the union-wrecking crew and their scab agency. To give a chance to all such well-meaning and honest workers not only to reenter the Union but also to take part in the election of officers, the General Executive Board requested all the cloak and dress locals to postpone their annual elections for paid and unpaid officers which were to take place during December, 1928, for two months. Though this postponement was not entirely to the taste of some locals as it interfered to an extent with their normal activity, they complied with the General Executive Board's request to give an opportunity to the reaffiliated members to take part in the elections. In addition, the General Executive Board, faithful to the promise it had made to the membership, was determined to make these elections as democratically and impartially supervised as it was possible to make them. A special committee of twenty shop chairmen, elected at a special meeting of chairmen called for this purpose, was placed in control of these elections to work jointly with a committee of impartial citizens of standing in the community and in the labor world. This latter committee consisted of Roger N. Baldwin, of the American Civil Liberties Union, Arthur Garfield Hays, well-known liberal attorney, and Jacob Billikopf, impartial arbitrator in the men's clothing industry. The committee of shop chairmen and the Citizen's Committee acquitted themselves of the arduous task allotted to them with great credit.

How these elections were carried out and their clean and thorough democratic manner are best attested by the letter forwarded to the Joint Board after the balloting was over by the three members of the Citizens Committee, which reads as follows:

**Citizens' Impartial Committee's Statement**

**Friends:**

The undersigned committee, appointed by your officers to take charge of the elections in your locals, report that they have completed their work by an examination of the signed certificates from each local. The committee issued the instructions governing the election and the counting of ballots, interviewed the shop chairmen's committee selected to supervise each poll-



ing place, went around to each polling place during the day, and visited the places where the ballots were counted.

We find that the instructions of the committee were observed and that no irregularities occurred. Complaints were made to us from two locals,—23 and 9. In Local-23 where there was a contest for manager, the committee was advised that one of the candidates was electioneering. That was his right before the day of election. We found that no electioneering was conducted on the day of election and no further complaint was made. In Local 9, where there was a contest between two opposing groups, we found it necessary to remove from the polling place two of the candidates who claimed the right to be there because they had been elected on a committee to supervise the elections before the Citizens' Committee was appointed. In order to insure a fair count in that local, we placed a representative of the Citizens' Committee in the room during the entire count. There has been no complaint that the count was unfair or that there was any interference with the casting of ballots during the day.

The Committee examined carefully all the arrangements for insuring that the ballot boxes were empty before the votes were cast, and for keeping the keys in possession of the impartial shop chairmen committee, all of whom came from different locals than those they were supervising. All the certificates of election have been signed by the election committees of each local and by the shop representatives supervising them. In the case of Local 9 the certificate was also signed by our own representative. We have consulted those who made complaints to us and find they were entirely satisfied that the elections were fair.

In making this report to you, we desire to express our appreciation of the courtesies extended to us by all of those charged with the conduct of the election and by the officers of the Union. We have been honored by your expression of confidence in our impartiality and our ability to discharge the responsibility you put upon us.

Very truly yours,

ARTHUR GARFIELD HAYS,  
JACOB BILLIKOPF,  
ROGER N. BALDWIN.

February 20, 1929.

The elections over, the active members in the organization turned their attention to the crucial problems—the approaching negotiations with the manufacturers, on one hand, and the preparations for the strike which was becoming more and more of a certainty.

**President Schlesinger's Illness; Dubinsky Acting President**

In the midst of the cloakmakers' mobilization campaign which was approaching its high mark in January, 1929, the leadership of the Union suffered a severe temporary setback in the illness of President Schlesinger.

President Schlesinger's breakdown, which was followed by a lingering sickness, from which he has not yet entirely recovered, was a hard blow to the Union. It was all the more staggering because it came practically unexpected and while he was hard at work at the helm of the organization. He spent several weeks in a hospital in New York City undergoing a cure, after which he was removed to the country to convalesce. Yet, despite the agonizing ordeal through which he was passing, President Schlesinger has not relaxed even for a day his interest in the affairs of the International and of the cloakmakers' drive especially, maintaining close contact with all the leaders, advising them uninterruptedly and keeping in touch with the workers through press articles and personal messages. He rose from a sick bed to come to the great meeting at 71st Armory Hall on June 20, 1929, to deliver in person a message to the army of cloakmakers on the eve of the strike.

The approaching strike, instead of fatiguing him, appeared to lend President Schlesinger strength and endurance. Contrary to the advice of his physicians, he threw himself into the battle with every ounce of his reserve energy, and when the strike was called out not even the threat of a second breakdown could keep him away from the midst of the conflict. Wan, worn out, and hardly able to remain on his feet he appeared at all the important meetings, arguing, pleading, and advocating the cause of the cloakmakers.

Only many weeks after the strike came to an end did he yield to the orders of his doctors to leave for a prolonged rest, and went to Europe, at his own expense, for a five-weeks' trip.

The General Executive Board feels that it expresses the mind not only of his immediate co-workers but of the entire membership of the I. L. G. W. U. in wishing President Schlesinger a complete recovery now that he is back at his task, ready to tackle the other paramount problems which are facing our Union in New York and in other centers of the women's garment making industry.

Confronted with the emergency need of a directing head for the organization during the enforced absence of President Schlesinger from office, the General Executive Board, at its meeting in March, 1929, upon the recommendation of President Schlesinger, appointed vice-president David Dubinsky as acting president of the International pending Brother Schlesinger's complete recovery.

No better choice probably could have been made. The volume of work facing the Union particularly at that moment required singular energy, a sense of hard realities and courage in confronting unflinchingly difficult situations, and these qualities vice-president Dubinsky brought to his new task in abundance. It is not an overstatement that, in the absence of President Schlesinger, acting president Dubinsky furnished the driving power for the entire strike machinery, attending as acting chairman of the General Strike Committee and of the Advisory Committee all the vital conferences with the employers' associations, addressing scores of strike meetings, negotiating with department store and chain store heads, and setting by his inexhaustible energy an example for the rest of the strike leaders to follow.

When the cloak strike in New York was brought to a successful end, acting president Dubinsky, at the urgent request of the local organizations, visited Boston several times, where he helped to launch an organization campaign among the cloakmakers, which has given a strong impetus to the movement of rebuilding the local cloak and dress unions for a time nearly wrecked by the Boston outfit of the so-called "needle workers' industrial union," in simpler words, the local Communist scab agency.

Later, in August, acting president Dubinsky went to Toronto, where he aided in starting an energetic organization drive among the cloakmakers, a campaign which is now in full progress and which bids well to place the Toronto locals on a sound footing within the coming few months. From Toronto Brother Dubinsky went to Montreal, where, with the aid of a group of loyal cloakmakers, he succeeded in forming a new I. L. G. W. U. organization on the ruins of locals that once were an influential factor in the Montreal cloak trade before they had been wrecked by Communist treason, per-

sonal intrigue and selfish quarrels among the workers themselves.

In September, acting president Dubinsky visited Chicago in the interests of the Union, and addressed several local and Joint Board meetings and conferred with local employers' associations and individual employers, jointly with vice-president Morris Bialls. Brother Dubinsky completed his midwestern tour with a three days' stay in Cleveland, where, together with the local leaders, he aided in formulating the new demands in the Cleveland cloak and dress industry.

The General Executive Board is anxious, on this occasion, to express its gratitude and the gratitude of the entire membership of the I. L. G. W. U. to Brother Dubinsky for the invaluable aid he has rendered to our organization as acting president of the Union at a time when his services, given freely and generously, were most needed and resulted in lasting benefit to our International.

#### Union Prepares for Strike

Even the most optimistic among the leaders of the organization were fast becoming convinced that a conflict in the cloak industry is unavoidable. The manner in which the manufacturers treated the demands of the Union, modest and constructive as they were, showed that the employers were inclined to straddle the most vital issues confronting the trade in the hope that somehow or other, they would manage to weather the situation and that the Union was not yet strong enough to wage a struggle in the defense of its demands. At the conferences with both the inside employers, the Industrial Council, and the sub-manufacturers, the American Association, some of the early ones which were attended, besides the leaders, by Morris Hillquilt, as counsel, the Union's demands for a raise in wage scales, the restoration of the unemployment insurance fund, and, above all, for the institution of a joint control commission as an instrument of combat against the illegitimate sub-standard sweat shops, were met with a counter-demand for the restoration of piece work, a measure which would only make conditions worse and would open the door for additional demoralization. In a similar vein, the employers, while ostensibly ready to concede a few minor



points as a smoke-screen for gaining public approval, definitely refused to consider the modification of the "reorganization" right.

Fully alive to this situation, and not wishing to leave matters for the eleventh hour, the Joint Board on April 17, instructed Brother Isidore Nagler, its general manager, to organize a strike machinery. The Union wanted no war, but as the employers kept dodging the demands, a breaking point could now be expected any day. Developments after that followed in quick succession. Within two weeks, a general strike committee, comprising the executive boards of all the cloak and dress locals and an executive committee of this strike committee, consisting of the chairmen of all the locals and of the chairmen of the various sub-committees of the main strike directing body, were elected.

The manufacturers, on the other hand, were also preparing for the coming fight. With virtually negotiations between the Union and the Industrial Council broken off, this organization of the "inside" employers formed a special advisory council to "operate their shops in the event of a strike," though still professing "peaceful" intentions. In public statements, they, nevertheless, declared that they were irrevocably opposed to any compromise on the "reorganization" issue and would not listen to any solution of the industrial ills advanced by the Union. The jobbers' association, the Merchant Ladies' Garment Association, with which the leaders of the Union were still conferring, also took the cue from the "inside" manufacturers and engaged in tactics of denying responsibility for the existence of sub-standard shops and for the deplorable conditions in these shops which, as everyone in the industry has for years known, were under their complete control. The sub-manufacturers body, the American Association, on its part, argued that piece-work would solve the demoralization in the industry.

On the day when the General Strike Committee was named by the Joint Board, President Schlesinger issued a stirring appeal to all cloakmakers to stand by the Union in its forthcoming fight for the "reorganization of the entire cloak and suit industry and the war against the sweat-shop system." The discharge right must be limited, piece-work must under no circumstances be permitted to return, and



union conditions, respect for the recognition of the workers' rights in the shops, must again be permanently secured. The appeal also warned the workers against a possibility of the Communist wreckers using the coming strike as a field for renewed scabbing and treachery.

Within a few days, a great meeting of shop chairmen at Webster Hall voted full power for the Joint Board and the International for a strike in the New York cloak industry. Vice-President Dubinsky, in the absence of President Schlesinger whose illness prevented him from addressing the meeting in person, summed up the stand of the Union in seven demands, which included, in addition to those formerly stated, also the right to visit "inside" shops twice a season for the purpose of investigating working conditions and the observance of union standards. The shop chairmen elected a committee of ten men to supervise the strike referendum, which was to be initiated shortly, and adopted a resolution endorsing the tactics of the Union's leaders in the conferences with the employers. President Schlesinger sent a message greeting the shop chairmen and exhorting them to "unite for the impending struggle against the right of discharge, piece-work and the return of the sweat-shop."

On June 1, 1929, the agreement with the associations expired, but as the conferences of the sub-committees still were in progress, it was extended for some weeks by mutual consent to exploit every opportunity for a peaceful adjustment of the controversy. The postponement of the strike for several weeks was also deemed good strategy on the part of the Union in order to outmanoeuvre the Communist clique in the fur trade who planned to pull a so-called strike in the fur trade at about the same time the cloak walkout was scheduled to take place. They finally went through a futile strike-gesture in June, and we were thus saved a good deal of annoyance. By mid-June, however, even the most optimistic realized that a strike throughout the industry was only a question of a few days.

The final preparatory step taken by the Union took the form of a huge mass meeting on June 20, at the 71st Regiment Armory, attended by not less than ten thousand cloakmakers, a meeting which proved by its magnitude beyond any doubt that the cloakmakers of New York were ready for the battle

and were willing to shoulder all the difficulties of the forthcoming struggle. The meeting was addressed by President Green, President Schlesinger, who came to the meeting from a sick bed, Matthew Woll, vice-president of the A. F. of L., David Dubinsky, Salvatore Ninfo, Julius Hochman, and Isidore Nagler, as chairman. "I have come to advise you to vote for a strike," said President Schlesinger, "and when the strike is called to see that every man is out. I know what suffering a strike entails, but none the less, as one who has gone through every cloak strike in the country for the past thirty-seven years, I advise you to vote unanimously for a strike. I am certain of victory—the greatest victory scored by the cloakmakers since 1910. You will yourselves be surprised at your success."

Acting president Dubinsky summed up the situation in a stirring speech, in which he stressed the importance of loyalty and sacrifice in the coming strike. "Your leaders," he concluded, "have given the bosses their answer. You will now give them yours. You will tell them, we feel sure, that you reject with contempt their impertinent demands. You will answer their challenge on the picket line. You will show them that not a single wheel will turn, not a single garment will be made. You will show them the power of the workers. You will show them that without cloakmakers there are no cloaks and that without cloaks there are no profits."

President Green emphasized his great interest in the movement of the New York cloakmakers and assured the great assembly of the support of the millions of men and women affiliated with the Federation. "We are going to fight with you. I will be here if I am needed. I will give you the best service of which I am capable, as will all my trusted associates who will be delegated to help you," he declared.

The meeting endorsed by acclamation a statement submitted by the General Executive Board and read from the platform by Brother Nagler. The statement in part follows:

**Keynote of Mass Meeting, June 20, 1929—71st Regiment Armory.**

"The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, once again in the 30 years of its existence, finds itself on the brink of a great struggle. Aligned on its side is every force that makes for human progress, for the emancipation of the worker

from brutal, relentless toil. Opposed to the International and every one of its aspirations are the forces of darkness, the same forces that are motivated by greed and lust, seeking to wring excess profits from the hand and the brain of the worker, reducing a billion-dollar industry to most unexampled chaos, if necessary, in order to achieve their purpose.

"We have been challenged by the employers to show our strength before they are prepared to deal with us on the basis of union demands. We hurl the challenge right back at them and point to this overflow demonstration and will point to our picket lines when they are drawn as an effective answer to their challenge.

"The present struggle is another shining example that the workers, only by their own strength and organized power, can maintain hard-won gains and go forward to new advantages. Repugnant as a general strike is to all of us, with its resultant hardships to loyal union men and their courageous families, with the grave and often overwhelming responsibility placed upon the leadership, nevertheless, the necessity of such a step becomes imperative in the face of the sneering, impertinent attitude of the employers. Every proposition set forth by the union in the spirit of justice and fair play, in the spirit of compromise, in an effort to create order out of chaos in a troubled industry, has met with the open contempt of the bosses.

"For, in less than 20 years we have come out of dark holes into the light. In place of back-breaking toil of sixty and more hours a week, there is now the forty-hour week. A five-day week instead of a six and, yes, a seven-day week. Wages have been greatly increased, though not enough to meet the present cost of living. Well ventilated, hygienic shops in place of dark, filthy, airless prisons in the slum section of our city. The union took spiritless workers beaten down by poverty, and made men and women of them, who could hold up their heads proudly. It has given them time for education, recreation and pleasure; it has permitted the wage-earner to see and know his family, to enlarge his view of life. It has emancipated him from fear.

"With this sterling record behind it and, ever mindful that to the future belongs further progress in our industry, the present International leadership sought, before the expiration of the last agreement, to remedy certain evils growing out of the agreement and out of unfortunate developments in the industry itself. It saw that the strength of the union was endangered by an unjust clause in the contract. It saw that the discharge clause written into the agreement of 1926 meant a whip over the heads of the workers. They saw the discharge clause used to beat down wages, break the morale of the most active workers and create havoc in other numerous ways. They saw workers, fearful of their jobs, go into collusion with unscrupulous bosses to debase standards and degrade their own humanity. They saw the discharge clause used to decrease the size of shops.

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"They saw the loss of the unemployment insurance fund, as the loss of an enlightened institution. Realizing the duty and responsibility of cloakmakers to one another, of employers toward their workers, union officials saw the need of the restoration of this fund. For the industry continues with its drastic unemployment periods and it is important to tide over idle workers till the next season. Body and soul must be kept together.

"The union demanded certification of shops, to see that union and humane conditions were observed in them. It felt a duty to the public as well as to its members. Garments must be produced under hygienic conditions if workers' health is to be preserved and if germ-laden garments are not to be sold to an unsuspecting public. The union demanded reasonable wage-increases to meet the rising cost of living.

"What do the employers answer to these reasonable demands? Do they offer to meet us in a compromising mood? No. They ask us to drop the 40-hour five-day week and ask us to take the 42-hour week, and work Saturdays six months a year at single pay. They have the audacity to tell us that in Industrial Council shops conditions must be debased to meet the lawless conditions of the fly-by-night and the sub-standard shop, rather than give us every encouragement and aid to bring up the rest of the industry to higher standards.

"In short, while every other industry is going forward in the march of progress, they suggest that we drop all our hard-won gains and sink to the level of an infantile, unorganized industry.

"To the public we have this to say. If there ever was a just cause, the cause of the cloakmakers is a just cause. They seek what every self-respecting man and woman seeks—the dignity of labor and freedom from fear and degrading poverty. We submit to the public our case and have every confidence that they will support us in this grave crisis.

"To our own members, to the laboring men at large we say this is the legitimate struggle of bona fide union men, in which we have, as in the past, the fullest support of the American Federation of Labor and its leadership. Cloakmakers will support our efforts, because it means saving the union, their union, their mother, their father, their all. For the union opened their eyes, lifted up their heads and gave them a glimpse of light and hope where before they walked in darkness. To the rest of the American labor movement, we say proudly—the garment workers have blazed the trail to every advance, every gain of labor. Our fight is your fight. A defeat for us is your defeat.

"Cloakmakers! Workers! Be ready, unite your forces and a speedy victory is yours."



The referendum on the strike, held under the auspices of a committee of shop chairmen and a committee representing all Joint Board locals, was carried out on June 21 and 22. 8,376 voted for a strike and only 275 voted against it.

#### General Strike Paralyzes Industry

Tuesday, July 2, 1929, will forever remain a red-letter day in the annals of our organization. On that day, in response to the strike call issued by the Union, 28,000 cloakmakers quit the shops and marched to the numerous strike assembly halls assigned to them by the strike committee. Even veteran trade unionists were amazed by the showing made by the New York cloakmakers. As a demonstration of strength and solidarity nothing as impressive has been witnessed in the New York cloak market since the historic days of 1910, the formative days of the cloakmakers' organization. The magnificent response of the cloakmakers to the strike call at once frustrated whatever hopes the employers might have had for the return of piece-work, the restoration of the 42-hour week, or the retention of the right to discharge without cause which had been given to them by the Communists after the last strike in 1926.

The anxious question on the lips of a multitude of friends—Will the cloakmakers respond to the call of the Union?—was answered without equivocation by the mass of the workers. For the first time in a half dozen years the Union again proved that it had a firm hold on the industry as 250 non-union shops walked out to a person on the first day of the strike. It took but a few days for the leaders of the Union to realize that this overwhelming response of the cloak workers to the strike call produced a stunning effect on the employers and on the whole industry. The manufacturers had challenged the Union to show its strength and the Union showed it in an unmistakable way. The industry was tied up completely.

On July 3, on the second day after the strike was called out, President Schlesinger received an invitation from Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt to come to Albany to attend a conference called by him to discuss the possibility of an early settlement of the strike. Mayor Walker of New York City sent a similar invitation to the strike leaders on the same



day. Headed by President Schlesinger, the Union's committee consisting of acting president David Dubinsky, Abraham Baroff, Salvatore Ninfo, Harry Wander, Joseph Breslaw, Benjamin Kaplan, Nicholas Kirtzman, David Fruhling, Max Stoller, and General Manager Nagler of the New York Joint Board, went to Albany on July 6 and met with Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Lieutenant Governor Herbert H. Lehman, Raymond V. Ingersoll and the representatives of all the employers' associations. The leaders of the Union laid before the conferees the strikers' minimum demands: The discharge right must be rigidly modified; Industrial Council shops must be inspected regularly; unemployment insurance must be restored, and an industrial commission of control designed to weed out the sweat-shop from the industry must be brought into operation.

Another conference, attended by Lieutenant Governor Lehman and President William Green of the A. F. of L., was held in New York several days later and virtually brought about the end of the strike. One after another the associations fell into line. The Industrial Council withdrew all its demands, including the 42-hour week, single pay for Saturdays during six months of the year, and optional piece-work; the jobbers agreed to turn over all their production to union shops owned by members of the American Association, and the sub-manufacturers gave up their demand for piece-work.

An agreement was drawn up which drastically modified the reorganization right of the manufacturers, and granted the certification of contractors and the creation of a joint commission with representatives of the Union, the associations and the public on it—to police the industry, to drive out of it bootleg production and to institute strict observation of union standards in all shops. The Union's demand for an increase in wages was to be taken up in a year, and the demand for the reestablishment of an unemployment fund was to be taken up by Impartial chairman Ingersoll at an early date.

The shortest strike on record in the history of the cloak-makers' organization of New York was thus concluded with a clean-cut victory which stirred deeply the 32,000 workers involved in it. Ten days after the strike was called, a huge meeting of shop chairmen in Webster Hall, without a dissenting vote, ratified the terms of the settlement and adopted a resolution to tax all the workers returning to the shops

a day's wages to be used, "to consolidate the gains made in the Industrial Council and American Association shops and to continue the strike against all remaining non-union and sweat shops in order to stabilize the industry and to achieve uniform high standards in it." The shop chairmen adopted three other resolutions—one honoring President Schlesinger and the Strike Committee, another expressing gratitude to Governor Roosevelt, Lieutenant Governor Lehman and Impartial Chairman Ingersoll for their efforts in helping to settle the strike on an equitable basis, and one thanking the press of New York for its enlightened interest in the cloak-makers and their struggles. The four resolutions follow:

#### Resolution on the Tax

"WHEREAS, as a result of the criminal Communist strike of 1926, the treasuries of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, the Joint Board and the New York Local Unions were recklessly depleted and ruined, and

"WHEREAS, the present general strike has been ably conducted on a sound economic basis without undue expenditures, and an extremely small budget, and

"WHEREAS, it is important to consolidate the gains made in the overwhelming victory thanks to which workers in Industrial Council shops and American Association shops are able to return to work within two weeks after the strike call without any loss or suffering, be it.

"RESOLVED, that the shop chairmen of the Cloak Industry here assembled unanimously decide on a tax of one day's pay upon those cloakmakers returning to settled shops, to be collected within two weeks, such proceeds to be used in continuing the strike against non-union and sweat shops, in order to stabilize the industry, and to achieve high standards—the same high standards for all the workers in the industry, and be it further

"Resolved, that we call upon the strike leadership to continue with unabated vigor the fight against the non-union shops, as they have shown in the strike against the organized inside manufacturers, jobbers and contractors."

. . .

#### Resolution on President Schlesinger and the Strike Committee

"WHEREAS, President Benjamin Schlesinger and our other Union officials comprising the general strike committee, have shown unexampled devotion, courage, and intelligence in the conduct of the strike of 32,000 cloakmakers, ever mindful of the best interests of the strikers and their families, and

"WHEREAS, they have given undivided attention to the problems of waging a short and effective strike, so that there be no needless deprivation and suffering, and

"WHEREAS, they have been able to obtain for the workers overwhelming gains that should go far toward achieving our goal to stabilize our industry, now be it

"RESOLVED, that the shop chairmen of the Cloak Industry here assembled express their deep affection, their fullest confidence, and whole-hearted support of President Schlesinger and of the general strike committee, and be it further

"RESOLVED, that they are hereby instructed to continue the strike with the same zeal against the non-union and sweat-shops until these are driven out of the industry, and until all the workers in the industry have won decent living and working conditions."

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Resolution on Governor Roosevelt, Lieutenant-Governor Col. Herbert H. Lehman, and the Impartial Chairman, Raymond V. Ingersoll.

"WHEREAS, the strike of over 30,000 cloakmakers to improve their economic conditions and to stabilize an industry suffering from chaos and demoralization has stirred public imagination as to the justice of their great cause, and

"WHEREAS, the Governor of New York State, His Excellency, Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Lieutenant-Governor, Col. Herbert H. Lehman, and the Impartial Chairman of the Industry, Raymond V. Ingersoll, were among the first of the public spirited citizens to show their active and sympathetic interest in our cause, and

"WHEREAS, the Governor, the Lieutenant-Governor and the Impartial Chairman translated their interest into a practical method for solving these problems for eliminating the sweat shop from the industry and ameliorating the conditions of the workers, now, therefore be it

"RESOLVED, that the shop chairmen of the Cloak Industry, representing 30,000 workers, here assembled express their deep appreciation of the unselfish and humane efforts of Governor Roosevelt, Lieutenant-Governor Lehman, and Mr. Ingersoll in the successful conclusion of our general strike."

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#### Resolution on the Press

"WHEREAS, the cause of over 30,000 striking cloakmakers caught the imagination of the general press, and

"WHEREAS, the aspirations of these cloakmakers in seeking to restore order to a chaotic industry and themselves to

decent living and working conditions, have received the sympathetic interest of the local press, not only in editorials but also in the news columns, be it, therefore

"RESOLVED, that the shop chairmen of the Cloak Industry assembled here give a vote of thanks to these molders of public opinion for their helpfulness, without which the cause of the workers would never have so effectively attracted public interest and support."

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True to the policy of trade union democracy, the General Strike Committee submitted the new agreement to all the strikers in the numerous halls on Monday, July 15, for ratification. The most impressive picket demonstration of the entire strike occurred on that morning, when 15,000 cloakmakers, who knew already that their strike was won, paraded triumphantly through the cloak district. And when they returned to the halls to vote on the settlement they found bands of music awaiting them, and the celebration continued on even a larger scale all through the day. The cloakmakers enthusiastically accepted the settlement by a vote of 16,094 in favor, with only 358 voting against it and 265 casting blank ballots. Never before in the history of the cloakmakers' organization has so large a proportion of strikers taken part in a strike settlement referendum. It is in place to recall here that the Communist office-holders in 1926 refused to submit the calling of the strike to a popular referendum.

The collective agreements were solemnly signed on the following day, July 16, in the New York City Hall, by President Schlesinger, acting president Dubinsky, and General Manager Nagler, on behalf of the Union. Mayor Walker and Lieutenant-Governor Lehman countersigned the agreement as witnesses. Outside, in the City Hall plaza, hundreds of cloakmakers received the news of the official conclusion of their strike with prolonged cheers.

#### The New Agreement

Since 1910, when the Union signed the agreement with the "Protective Association," now known as the Industrial Council, the Union has never been permitted to enter the shops of its members, although it had access to the shops of independent and other firms. Now, for the first time in the history of our Union, we have succeeded in obtaining this right.

The new clause in the agreement reads as follows:

1) "The Union shall have the right to have its representatives visit the shops of the members of the Council once every season for the purpose of examining the union standing of the workers, which examination shall not involve the loss of work time. All such examinations shall be had on notice to the Council which may, in each instance, designate a representative to accompany the Union representative on such examination.

"When permanently engaging a new worker, each member of the Council shall send the name, address and designation of craft of such worker to the Council and the Council shall immediately communicate such information to the Union."

The second paragraph of this clause makes it mandatory on the employer to advise the Union of every newly engaged worker so that the Union may know whether the worker is in good standing or not. The employers also promise to demand working cards of all workers who will be engaged in their shops after the strike, indicating that they are members in good standing, thus living up to the agreement which provides that the members of the Council shall employ only members in good standing of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

The Union asked for the certification of contractors. This certification is to indicate that such contractors are in contractual relations with the Union that the union standards are being observed. The following new clause is incorporated in the agreement with the Industrial Council and the Merchants' Association:

2) "The members of the American Association are recognized in this industry to be the efficient and standard shops capable of assisting in stabilizing the industry and eliminating the so-called sweat shop evil.

"Accordingly, the parties hereto agree that members of the Industrial Council will confine the manufacture of merchandise made for them in sub-manufacturing shops to members of the American Association exclusively. And the members of the American Association undertake to give preference to members of the Merchants' Association and members of the Industrial Council of Cloak, Suit and Skirt Manufacturers, Inc."

This clause will limit the production of garments exclusively to those shops in contractual relations with the Union and which are members of the American Association.



This clause enables the Union, through the Commission established in the new agreement, to limit the number of shops in the industry, thereby eliminating those which cause the demoralization and evade control.

The Union proposed the establishment of a permanent Commission consisting of representatives of the Union, of the various associations and also of prominent people not connected with our industry, to represent the public. This Commission was to be charged with the duty of proposing necessary legislation to eradicate the sweat-shop from our industry. Through its prestige it was also to influence the public not to purchase garments manufactured in sweat-shops, and to bring great pressure to bear on those responsible for the demoralization in the industry.

The public, being represented on it, will, no doubt, lend an attentive ear to such a commission. These representatives will be appointed by the Governor of the State of New York, who has taken a keen interest in the suffering of the thousands of workers dependent upon our industry and who is very much concerned with bringing order into one of the largest industries in the State.

The new clause in the agreement reads as follows:

3) "For the purpose of eliminating substandard and sweat shop conditions; a Commission composed of the Impartial Chairman in the Industry and of an equal number of representatives of the parties hereto and of all other organizations that are subject to the machinery herein established and of three prominent citizens of the City of New York not connected with the Industry who shall be designated by the Governor of the State of New York shall be organized and charged with the duty of analyzing and investigating the many problems affecting this Industry including the problem of production and the abatement of the production of garments under substandard or sweat shop conditions in the Industry. From time to time it shall make public its findings and recommendations regarding all matters engaging its attention. It shall in addition make such statistical and fact-finding investigations as may seem desirable from time to time and build up a body of information about the Industry which will enable problems of unemployment, productivity and wages to be dealt with intelligently.

"The Commission shall adopt rules of procedure and shall meet at regular stated intervals. It shall have authority to employ accountants, investigators, statisticians and other em-

ployees. The operating expenses of the Commission shall be contributed by all organizations represented on the same and by all independent manufacturers, jobbers, sub-manufacturers and contractors operating under contract with the Union in such proportions and amounts as the Impartial Chairman hereinafter provided for may fix."

2 The Unemployment Insurance Fund, as provided for in the new agreement, will be reestablished when the industry is better organized. The contributions will then be made not only by one employing factor but by all employing groups in the industry.

There now appears an opportunity in the very near future for the reestablishment of the Fund at which time the Union will ask that contributions be made by the employers only. This will exempt workers from contributing the 1 per cent, as provided for in the old agreement. In the event of failure between the parties to agree on the date of the resumption of the Fund, the Union may apply to the Impartial Chairman, whose decision shall be binding upon all the parties.

The new clause in the agreement reads as follows:

4) "The active operation of the Unemployment Insurance Fund, i.e., the collection of premiums and payment of benefits as per agreement entered into between the parties on the 19th day of March, 1927, shall be resumed as soon as the unionization of the industry and the enforcement of uniform labor standards have reached a point at which the provisions for the payment of Unemployment Insurance contributions can be substantially enforced throughout the industry. The question whether such conditions in the industry have been created and exist shall be determined by the parties to this agreement, and in the event of their failure to agree, the date of the resumption of operations of the said Fund shall be determined by the Impartial Chairman."

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It will also be recalled that the Sanitary Label was suspended due to the demoralized state of industry simultaneously with the suspension of the Unemployment Insurance Fund. With the organization of the industry, the label, too, will be reestablished.

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During the negotiations with the employers, the latter submitted counter-demands for optional piece-work and the 42-hour week. The employers were compelled, at the final conference, to withdraw these demands, and the new agree-

ment provides for the strict enforcement of the week-work system and the retention of the 44-hour five-day week.

The new clause reads as follows:

5) "A week's work shall consist of forty (40) hours in the first five days of the week; work shall begin at 8 A. M. and continue until 5 P. M. with one hour interval for lunch."

The employers also asked that workers be permitted to work six months during the year on Saturdays for single pay. The Union strenuously objected to this, but taking into consideration that the industry is seasonal and that practically the entire industry worked during the past two years on Saturdays with and without the permission of the Union at single pay for such Saturday work, we were successful in incorporating into the new agreement the following clause:

6) "During the two months immediately preceding Easter Sunday and during the months of September and October of each year four hours work may be done on Saturdays. All operators, finishers and piece tailors shall receive pay at the rate of time and one-quarter for such Saturday work and all other classes of workers shall be paid at the rate of time and one-half for such Saturday work. In shops in which the workers have not worked at least eight (8) hours overtime during the week, work on Saturday shall be paid at the regular rates of overtime pay."

This clause does not make it compulsory for work to be done on Saturdays. As provided in the clause such work "may be done on Saturdays," and when such work is done, crafts which regularly receive time and one-half for overtime shall receive time and a quarter, and crafts which regularly receive double time for overtime shall receive time and one-half for such Saturday work.

The Union also asked for a \$5 increase of the minimum scales. All parties, realizing that out of this strike will come more organization and order into the industry, and that the Union could not conclude an agreement for three years without securing an increase for its workers, have agreed that one year after the signing of the agreement the Union may apply to the Impartial Chairman for such an increase. In reality this means that ten and a half months from the date of the signing of the agreement the Union may apply for such an increase in the schedules.

The new provision in the agreement reads as follows:

7) "One year from the date of this agreement the Union may apply to the Impartial Chairman to consider a modification of the wage schedules herein agreed to. After hearing the parties and considering all available information as to the then state of organization in the industry the Chairman shall have the full power to make decisions which shall be binding upon the parties."

A new clause in the agreement is Paragraph No. 38, which reads:

8) "All members of the Council at the time of the execution of this agreement and persons, firms and corporations becoming members thereof subsequent to the date of the execution of this contract, shall be and continue to remain personally and individually liable under said agreement, for and during the term thereof, irrespective of whether said member shall cease to be a member of the said Council prior to the date set for the expiration of said contract, and such liability shall be deemed to have survived the termination of such membership and remain in force for and during the full term thereof."

This clause provides that when a member of an Association resigns or becomes non-union the Union shall have the right to institute legal proceedings against such firm to obtain damages sustained by the workers by reason of the abrogation of the agreement for the period the agreement still has to run.

This is of great significance to the workers because many employers who desired to evade union control in the past resigned or became non-union and the Union was unable to proceed legally against them. All the associations agreed to this provision.

Due to the demoralization in the industry, the employers made deals with workers and shop chairmen. Such cases, when brought before the Impartial Chairman, were recognized as understandings between the workers and employers, although in violation of the agreement. In many instances it was agreed to work for single time instead of time and one-half or double time as provided in the agreement; not to receive pay for holidays; longer hours, etc. The Union insisted on the following clause, which was conceded in order to prohibit such acts in the future:

9) "No employer and no worker or group of workers, shall have the right to modify or waive any provision of this agreement."

It is very well known that employers in contractual relations with the Union used to give up their shops but would retain cutters and sampl makers on their premises. The clause, which follows will prevent any employer, either association or independent, from practicing this in the future.

The new provision reads as follows:

10) "The Union shall not enter into any agreement with any individual concern or association employing cutters and sampl makers unless they operate a complete inside factory as herein defined."

• • •

In order that the independent firms, under contract relations with the Union and not members of the various associations, may be kept under strict control as to observance of standards as provided in the agreement, the Union asked that the following clause be included in the new agreement. This was agreed to by all parties:

11) "The Union agrees to insert a clause in all its agreements with independent employers to the effect that such employers will submit to the supervision of the Impartial Chairman and of the Commission herein provided for."

"All such independent employers shall be required by the Union to deposit cash security for the performance of the agreement on their part. The amount of such cash security deposits shall be based on a schedule which shall take into account the size of the employer's shop and the volume of his business."

12) Up to the last agreement the jobbers were responsible only for five working days' pay to workers employed by sub-manufacturers, when such sub-manufacturers went into bankruptcy or failed to pay the workers for their labor. This has now been increased from five to seven working days of pay.

• • •

The independent manufacturers will also have to contribute towards the upkeep of the Impartial Chairman and the Commission. Until now the largest share was paid by the Union. According to the following clause in the agreement with the independents, each employer will have to contribute towards the maintenance of the Impartial Chairman and the Commission.

The new clause in the agreement reads as follows:

13) "The Employer agrees to pay at the time of the signing of this agreement and yearly thereafter the sum of \$..... per year as his pro rata contribution to the expenses of maintaining



the Commission. Failure thus to pay will be treated as a breach of this contract, and the Impartial Chairman hereinbefore referred to shall have power to authorize the Union to deduct such payment out of the monies deposited by the Employer with the Union as security for the faithful performance of this agreement. The Impartial Chairman may on his option direct legal proceedings to be instituted for the recovery of the said amount and the Employer agrees that judgments may be entered in such proceedings against him therefore."

The present agreement will run for three years and will terminate June 1, 1932.

#### REORGANIZATION CLAUSE

As contained in old agreement: 1) Old agreement provides that reorganization take place thruout an entire month.

As contained in new agreement: 1) That such additional reorganization rights be exercised during the week ending the last Friday in June of the year when such reorganization is permitted, and at no other time.

Under the old clause a worker was kept in suspense throughout an entire month as to whether he would be the victim of the reorganization or not. This period has been limited to only one week.

2) That such workers displaced by such reorganization shall be replaced through the Employment Bureau.

2) That any workers displaced by such reorganization shall be replaced not later than on the 15th day of July following such reorganization. In case of wilful violation of this provision by any members of Council, the Council shall impose a fine on such member equal to the amount of wages which the displaced and not replaced workers would have earned from the 15th day of July to the date of replacement. The proceeds of such penalty shall be applied as provided for in the FIFTH Clause of the agreement.

The Labor Bureau, as called for in the old agreement, was intended to be a joint bureau of representatives of the Union and the employers. It never functioned. As a result of this, instead of shops becoming larger, the size of the

shops decreased. Workers were discharged and new workers were not employed. Hundreds of workers so discharged were compelled to look for employment in non-union and sweat-shops or remain without employment.

The new clause, as stipulated in the agreement, provides that a penalty equal to the amount that workers would have earned from the day that they should have been replaced, shall be imposed on an employer failing to replace such discharged workers. It strictly provides that two weeks after the reorganization, the number discharged shall be replaced. It is not the penalty that the Union has in mind, but the number of workers so discharged shall be replaced by new workers, thus keeping up the size of the shop and not decreasing it.

• • •

3) No provision in old agreement.

3) That such reorganization rights shall not be used as a means for the reduction of wages and that all workers retained after the reorganization period shall continue receiving the same wages as theretofore subject to the provisions with respect to workers who are deficient in their production by reason of their age or physical condition as provided for in the TWENTIETH Clause of this agreement.

Many manufacturers utilized the old agreement as a means of instilling fear into the workers. With the threat of discharge they forced the workers into reducing their wages to retain employment. This clause removes any possibility for reducing wages and checks such demoralization in the industry.

• • •

4) That such reorganization rights shall be exercised only in the months of June, 1927, June, 1928 and December, 1928.

4) That such reorganization rights shall be exercised only in the month of June of the years 1930 and 1931, and that no reorganization shall take place in the year of 1932, before or after the expiration of the agreement.

According to the old agreement, signed after the unfortunate strike of 1926, employers were permitted three reorganizations, affecting 30% of their workers in two and a half years. As specified in the new agreement there will be only two reorganizations in a period of three and one-half years; whereas the old contract gave the employers the right to discharge twelve and one-half per cent of their workers yearly, the new clause in the agreement permits the employers to discharge only five and one-half per cent of their workers each year.

• • •

5) That there shall be no unfair discrimination for union activity in connection with such discharges.

The term "union activity" as herein employed shall not be construed to have reference to the position of the discharged worker in the Union or in the shop, but to activities of such worker not connected with the manner of the performance of his work in the shop.

5) If any worker so discharged shall claim that the discharge was due to the performance of his duties in behalf of the Union or of the workers in the shop, the Union may present a request for the reinstatement of such worker to the impartial Chairman, who shall hear both sides, ascertain the facts and decide accordingly.

This clause, as it appears in the old agreement, which reads "the term 'union activity' as herein employed," etc., could not be understood even by astute lawyers. It was the result of secret conferences between the now dead gambler, Arnold Rothstein, who was the chief negotiator for the Communists. They, for reasons of their own, inserted that clause into the agreement and thus practically nullified the previous clause, which reads "there shall be no unfair discrimination in connection with such discharges."

As a result of that clause hundreds of active workers were discharged and the Union was unable to present a case to the Impartial Chairman because the interpretation as to "union activity" as contained in the old clause prevented the Union from claiming that a worker was discharged because of his activity as a shop chairman or because of other union activity.

According to the new clause, it will not be sufficient for the employer to claim that he discharged a worker because of his right to the reorganization clause, but he will have to

present to the Impartial Chairman his reasons or justification for such discharge, and only when the Impartial Chairman will find reasons other than the fact that the worker so discharged is a shop chairman or active union worker, will the Impartial Chairman sustain such discharge. Should the employer be unable to present reasons for such discharge and should the Union file a complaint that the worker was discharged by reason of his union activity, the Impartial Chairman will have the power to reinstate such worker.

In other words, the Union obtained the right to review every case in which it suspects that the discharge was due to union activity. It was on this point that the General Strike was called and for which the Union fought. It was finally won and is a great victory for the workers, since this protects not only the shop chairman but every active Union worker in the shop as well.

#### Chain Stores and Mail Order Houses

While the strike was still in the process of liquidation, the Advisory Committee launched a campaign to enlist the cooperation of the big department stores, chain stores and several mail order houses in ridding the cloak market of New York of sub-standard shops.

Already before the strike it became obvious to the leadership of the Union that the cooperation of these firms which distribute, and some of which produce, tens of millions of dollars worth of cloaks annually, would be essential to the success of the war upon the sweat shop evil. Without loss of time, President Schlesinger, on July 24, forwarded a letter to fourteen of the leading department stores in Greater New York in which, among other things, he pointed out the creation of a commission by the Governor of New York for the purpose of stabilizing the cloak industry and eliminating the sweat shop as a menace to the workers' health and standards and as inimical to public welfare.

"In the establishment of this Commission for the Cloak and Suit Industry all of the organized factors, including the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, played an important part and it is through their mutual faith and goodwill that restoring order out of chaos in a bedevilled industry is possible," President Schlesinger further wrote.

"As a distributor of a large number of cloaks and suits manufactured in Greater New York, you know that your sympathetic cooperation in the noble enterprise to eradicate the sweat shop will be a great public benefit, as well as an incalculable aid to our industry.

"It is with this in mind that I am addressing this communication to you, asking whether it is not possible for you to fix a time during the week of July 29th when it will be convenient for you to meet me, so that we may indicate how you can help us and the other organized factors in the garment industry in ridding it of the iniquitous sweat shop production."

Among the first to accept the Union's invitation to a conference were R. H. Macy, Gimbel Bros., Frederick Loeser & Co., Arnold Constable Co., Abraham & Strauss, and Best & Co. Simultaneously, acting president Dubinsky and vice-president Breslaw arranged for conferences with the National Bellas-Hess, a leading garment mail order house, and with the J. C. Penney Co., a big chain-store organization, operating 1,400 stores all over the country. The heads of this concern announced, after a conference, their readiness to cooperate with the Union in stamping out sub-standard production, declaring that a great part of their business is done with working men and women, particularly in the industrial communities. They promised to submit to the Union a list of the shops which do work for them and to withdraw all future orders from firms indicated by the Union as failing to come up to union standards and work conditions. The leaders of the Union, in turn, gave them the assurance that steps would be taken to prevent non-union producers of cloaks and suits with whom the Penney Co. would refuse to deal, from underselling them by offering their product to other chain stores.

Still a more notable achievement in this campaign to enlist the aid of the national distributors to drive sweat shop conditions out of the cloak trade was scored on September 16 by the Union when, after several conferences, the Sears-Roebuck Company, the largest mail order house in the world, of which Julius Rosenwald is president, agreed for itself and for its subsidiary chain store group, the Henry Rose Stores, to confine their cloak and suit production to shops in contractual relations with the I. L. G. W. U. and under supervision of the Cloak and Suit Commission. This understanding between the Sears-Roebuck firm and the Union was reached through the efforts of acting president Dubinsky and General Manager



Nagler of the Joint Board, after President Schlesinger, then on a health trip in Europe, had undertaken preliminary negotiations. In commenting on this outcome of these negotiations, which was greeted with immense satisfaction throughout the widest circles of our membership all over the country, acting president Dubinsky declared:

"Sears-Roebuck, for years has observed the provisions laid down by Mr. Julius Rosenwald that cloaks and suits must be made up in bona fide shops. Now, with the effort to stabilize the entire industry reaching a successful climax, closer cooperation will be obtained to aid the general movement to eliminate the sweat shop and cut-throat competition from which fair employers and workers have suffered alike."

The fact that both these big firms, the Penney stores and Sears-Roebuck, have in the past manufactured most of their garments in legitimate shops does not in the last detract from the significance of the moral victory scored by the Union. While the amount of non-union production distributed by these leading firms may have been small in the past, it has still created an impression in the market that the mail order houses didn't care whether they purchased their garments from bootleg shops or from legitimate union shops. In fact, it has come to be interpreted by some that these huge retailing concerns were actually supporting the sub-standard shops in the cloak market and that they were, by the same token, opposed to the Union. The frank endorsement of the Union's drive against the sweat shops by these firms and their undertaking to buy only goods made in union shops has created a wholesome impression upon all other distributors.

We regard this not merely as a sound business policy on the part of these distributors and retailers who cater to countless workin-class customers, but as an achievement that has added prestige to our Union and has supplied impetus to the drive to bring about a thoroughly rehabilitated cloak and suit industry in the New York market.

#### Other Achievements of the Cloak Strike

The last cloak strike, important as its direct gains for the workers are, has achieved a number of indirect gains, the effects of which are bound to have a lasting and salutary effect on the cloak industry of New York and of the whole country.

Most important among its achievements, no doubt, is the definite and permanent check which it has placed on the dismemberment or the breaking up of the industry into small irresponsible production units, a process, which if left unchecked for a few years longer, would have actually shot the industry to pieces.

The cloak industry, it is true, unlike the men's clothing industry, has never been a big shop industry even in the days before the first cloak strike in 1910. It is doubtful whether even under most favorable circumstances, the cloak industry, owing to its highly stylized and complex nature, could develop into shops employing thousands of workers under one roof and one management. Much as the concentration of the industry into very big shops might have meant for the workers from the viewpoint of control of work standards, it is quite evident that the Union's chief purpose in such an industry as the cloak industry is a responsible shop owned or controlled by a responsible employer. It stands to reason that a petty fly-by-night, so-called employer, typical of the owner of the contracting shop which has infested the cloak industry in late years, could neither be controlled nor could he employ workers under fair conditions.

Unfortunately, the trend in this industry for the past dozen years has been in the direction of steady disintegration of the bigger shops or production units into ever smaller and least responsible shops. It is not here the place to enumerate the various causes which have been responsible during these many years for the steady dismemberment of the inside and outside shops and for the dangerous increase of bootleg, non-union production in the cloak industry. Chief among these contributing causes, no doubt, is the advent of the jobber, the type of employer who, in order to escape union control of work conditions in his own shop, has chosen the subterfuge of delegating directly or indirectly responsibility for production of his merchandise to a sub-manufacturer or a contractor all the while maintaining control over these subordinate employers insofar as credit, raw materials and operating capital is concerned. And while jobbing has for years been quite a legitimate factor in almost every other industry, in the cloak industry jobbing has assumed the function of not merely wholesale distribution but of wholesale manufacturing under the cloak of wholesale or stockhouse merchandising.

The subsequent growth of keen competition between jobber and jobber and the desperate hunt for cheaper and ever cheaper production on the part of these jobbers is probably the chief reason for the catastrophic growth of the numberless small contracting and submanufacturing shoplets which have played havoc with the earnings, hours and other work-standards of the cloakmakers in the New York market. The Union, of course, was not blind to these conditions and sought to put a stop to them from time to time. In the strikes of 1919, 1921 and 1924 the Union has fought desperately to place the responsibility for outside production on the shoulders of the jobbers where it properly belongs. For a time the organization of the workers would be successful in halting this demoralizing process, which not only robbed the cloakmakers of their legitimate means of livelihood but created in the industry an army of so-called pauper "bosses," parasites who lived off the industry's crumbs. The agreements with the jobber element, however, lacked force and substance for the reason that, as a group, the jobbers were little concerned with the stability and interests of the industry as a whole. Their viewpoint toward the industry and the attitude of the average jobber with regard to the contract between him and the Union has been that he could best succeed in his season's business if he could succeed in circumventing his obligations and in farming out his product to as many non-union and sub-standard shops as he could.

The Communist affliction which hit the women's garment industry and our organization harder than any other industry in the country, has completed the job of shop disintegration and of demoralization of union control begun a number of years ago by the development of the jobber factor. It is a matter of record that the net result of the 1926 strike alone was at least 700 small bootleg shops where cloakmakers were compelled to work under conditions which in all essentials resembled the conditions in the trade before the strike of 1910. The Communist regime, besides this, has destroyed for a time the fighting spirit of the cloakmakers and their faith in the Union, a damage which has taken herculean effort to repair in the past three years. Suffice it to state here that before the strike piece work, a vital violation of the agreement, prevailed even in the majority of the so-called union shops. It reached a point where even union men became

accustomed to regard it not as a crime against union rules. Today, it may be safely asserted, hardly a shop of any standing may be found where piece work is practiced.

What the last strike has achieved in this respect primarily was to turn the glaring light of public opinion upon this menace to work standards and stability in one of New York's greatest industries which threatened to convert it into a sweat shop jungle. The modest and constructive demands of the workers, demands which essentially constituted an appeal to save the industry from destruction, had struck with immense force. Overnight, it would seem, the great community of New York lined up in behalf of our cause. The strike was so splendidly prepared, and the response of the workers to it was so overwhelming, that from its first hour it assumed the nature of a crusade for the saving of a great industry upon which tens of thousands were dependent for a living. Against this stonewall of defense all opposition quickly crumbled and the way was paved for a speedy and satisfactory settlement.

It was not a settlement for this or that group in the industry, but, as was emphasized time and again, a settlement that promises health and recovery for the whole industry. The short duration of the strike, fortunately, had not made it necessary for the Union to enter into settlements, as in former protracted strikes, with the smaller individual employers. Quite to the contrary, this time the Union settled first with the organized groups in the industry, which enabled it to concentrate its fire upon the smaller units and upon the sub-standard shops. The drift of the "bundles" into the contract shops or the out-of-town shops from the bigger shops which has been so characteristic of cloak strikes in the past, has never had a chance to develop during the past conflict. Production in the legitimate shops was resumed with the minimum interruption of time, which had a salutary effect on the workers and on the trade as a whole. What the effect of this policy of withholding settlements with "independent" shops was (only 17 firms actually were settled as individual concerns) may be seen from these figures: The Industrial Council grew within the past four months from 140 to 320 members; the American Association expanded from about 400 before the strike to nearly 1,100 members, while the Jobbers' Association became an association of 115, whereas before the strike it hardly had 40 members.



To sum up. The last strike has brought out, for the first time, all the evils, peculiarities and difficulties of the cloak industry into open daylight, compelling every factor of importance in it to assume its share of responsibility for its conduct and general welfare. It has brought out with striking clarity the fact that the cloak industry, one of the biggest in the nation's chief center of industrial and commercial activity, cannot survive as a big industry capable of supporting in decency tens of thousands of persons with families, if it is to be carried on as in the past on a dog-eat-dog basis. The establishment of a commission of control with definite powers has meant not merely a guarantee for the safeguarding of accepted work-terms in the shops and the policing of the general conduct and attitude toward the agreement of all interested factors. It means not only that matters of collective interest to the workers, such as the reestablishment of an unemployment insurance fund and the upward revision of the wage scales would receive early consideration and care, but also that grievances arising between other groups in the trade that are of direct or indirect importance to the cloakmakers, such as disputes between contractors and jobbers or manufacturers, will be adjusted and stabilized by this joint agency of all trade factors and representatives of the public.

That the cloakmakers have acclaimed the outcome of this strike with such conscious enthusiasm is also a sign that they are beginning to realize that just as much as they are a part of the industry and the industry, therefore, owes them a decent subsistence in return for their labor, the industry is also a concern of their lives and their attitude towards it must be constructive and sane. This trade of cloakmaking is the only occupation they know, and upon it they depend for their livelihood. It is to their interest, therefore, that this industry be strong, prosperous and progressive. To stand on the sidelines and watch the industry go to perdition will not gain an ounce of bread for them or their dependents. They must take a hand in the control of its destiny; they must become industry-minded if they are to gain for themselves the power, influence and respect to which they are entitled as its most useful and productive force.

The outcome of the last cloak strike has cast the last shovel of dirt upon that bogey of "class collaboration" which



the Communists had raised some time ago as bait with which to attract into their net workers unfamiliar with their true designs upon the Labor movement. The Communists, while as a matter of fact, more than anyone else ready to trade away the most vital gains of the workers for power and recognition, were, nevertheless, brazen enough constantly to dangle sham slogans of opposition to any cooperation with employers in the interest of industry as a whole. The cloakmakers have by now become mature enough to see through the fake and insincerity of these professions. They have turned their backs upon these false prophets who only a couple of years ago had dragged them and their industry to the brink of a precipice. The cloakmakers realize that it is their duty to take a leading part in the task of cleaning out the chaos and disorder which has nearly ruined their means of making a living, in cooperation with all honestly-minded groups in their industry and in the community.

#### **The Downfall of the Communist Agency**

The 1928 Boston Convention definitely and for all time recorded the voice and will of our membership against any contact, compromise or "peace" in any form with the henchmen of the Communist Party who for several years past were masquerading as representatives or spokesmen of the cloakmakers and the dressmakers. The convention repudiated in ringing words any attempt to make a "settlement" with these impostors.

The natural consequence of this uncompromising stand of the International, a stand which they too anticipated, was the formation by the Communists of a dual union, which they named the "needle workers' industrial union," an organization which was supposed to take in not only cloakmakers and dressmakers but men's clothing workers, capmakers, furriers and every branch of the needle industry. The birth of this Communist offspring, in fact, took place right there in Boston, after they had lost all hope of worming their way back into our Union through "peace" maneuvers. The backbone for this organization, formed on orders that came directly from Moscow, was supposed to have been recruited from the dressmakers among whom the Communist emo-

tional influence was always supposed to have been the greatest, while the "strong" arm was to be supplied by the furriers, a field which the Communist agents had terrorized with considerable success some three years ago.

The leadership of the International, from the start, appraised this new Communist adventure as a stillborn affair. Once out of the ramifications of our Union and outside of the Labor Movement in general, the Communist dual union was a toothless beast of prey. The cloakmakers and the dress-makers we had known could be swayed for a time from the path of trade unionism by torrents of abuse, but, as a mass, they could not be coaxed into a scab organization. Nevertheless, this "dual union" still contained elements of danger. Committed to a policy of gangsterism and intimidation, it was feared the Communist could still do a lot of harm to our workers, especially in times of a strike.

During the Summer of 1928, this Communist agency confined its efforts largely to attempts of weaning away individual employers from the Union by offering them such "concessions" as a 42-hour week, piece work, no charge for overtime as a reward for "recognition," and promising to "protect" their shops for them in the event of any protest or retaliation by the Union. Only in rare cases, however, did it succeed in swaying an employer into such "trading," the employers' associations approached by it with offers of wholesale "bargains" flatly declined to have anything to do with them. Baffled in this effort, the dual Communist outfit turned to "constructive" work, namely, to preparation for a "general strike" in the dress industry, where they were supposed to have had their principal strength. After much ballyhoo and a show of preparedness, they finally pulled their "strike" in the latter part of January, 1929. The affair turned out a miserable failure, the number of workers who responded to their call amounting to less than two thousand. It practically left no im-

These "revolutionists," who continually slandered all union officials as "class collaborators," while preparing for their "strike," collaborated with some employers and organized an association of dress contractors in order to be able to proclaim a settlement and to announce a victory a short time after the calling of the strike. It is interesting to note that this association was headed by one Louis Press, a brother-in-law of Louis Hyman, the leader of the oppositionists.

The flop of this "constructive strike" produced a disheartening effect even among such irreconcilables as still hoped that the "revolutionists" would come out on top and eventually take the place of the legitimate trade union organization in the ladies' garment industry. Naturally, our Union didn't fail to take advantage of this additional proof of Communist failure and redoubled its efforts to win back into the fold of the organization the thousands who strayed away from it and were all but lost to the Labor movement. The powerful appeal issued by the General Executive Board to the former members of the Union to rejoin the organization as the preparations for the general cloakmakers' strike were going on had its effect, and hundreds of workers, by groups and by shops, began to flock back into the locals.

On the eve of the strike there was, however, a considerable amount of apprehension among the leaders of the Union as to the volume of obstruction the Communist agency might be able to put in the way of the normal prosecution of the strike. Some were inclined to regard the prospect rather pessimistically, prophesying that the Communists would help the employers break down all picket lines, that they would flood the shops with scabs, and would sign up with employers on any terms in order to hurt the strike. The events that followed, however, proved that these fears were grossly exaggerated. True, there was still the old viciousness and the desire on the part of the Communist agents to hurt and wreck, but the strength was not here. In order to give their henchmen an excuse to appear on the streets and to confuse our strikers, the "industrial union" first attempted to stage an opposition to our armory mass-meeting by calling a meeting of cloakmakers for the same afternoon in Manhattan Opera House, which failed dismally and later, on July 2, also called its followers out on a "cloak strike" at the time our men and women left the shops. No one, of course, took the Communist attempt to "capture our strike" seriously, not even such as in the past used to take orders from them. What a fiasco their "cloak strike" turned out to be may be seen from the fact that while the Joint Board required 16 halls to accommodate our strikers, the Communist agency hired only 3 halls, and on the second day gave up two of them, concentrating their entire "army" in one hall for a few days. Here and there they made attempts to raise rows, to beat up union workers, and even to stab pickets. These scab activities were,

however, smothered by the great mass of the cloakmakers who responded in a body to the call of the International.

It was this universal response that actually sealed the doom for the Communists in the cloak industry. The disorganized shops, the shops that were hit the hardest by Communist demoralization, the shops where indifference and apathy to the Union had reigned for practically a half dozen years, came down like an avalanche and joined the ranks of the strikers. These thousands finally turned their back on a sterile past and returned home. They were through forever with disloyalty; they eagerly rejoined their old organization.

Today, the situation with respect to the Communist "industrial union" may be summed up as follows: In the cloak trade, both numerically and with regard to influence, they are a zero. Ninety-nine per cent of the cloakmakers are back in the Union and have divorced themselves completely from the "left" nightmare. In the dress trade, they have retained a nucleus amounting to a score of shops, but even there they are largely a negative factor; after their last strike-fiasco the general opinion is that should the Union launch an all-embracing movement for a general strike in the dress trade the remaining vestige of Communist influence in that trade, too, would be wiped out.

On the whole, the last year and a half has been a period of speedy debacle for the malefactors who a few years ago determined to capture or destroy our organization. On the eve of this convention, we may state with a feeling of deep gratification that the Communist influence among our workers is completely destroyed, never, we are confident, to return again.

#### **The Committees of the Cloak Strike**

It would, perhaps, be as unfair as it would be difficult to single out from among the scores of men and women—officers, executive board members and rank and file workers—single individuals who had contributed mostly to the success of the last cloak strike. Its victorious conclusion was made possible by the joint, wholehearted effort of all the active spirits within the organization and the loyal aid given us by numerous supporters outside our immediate ranks. Nevertheless, there were in this strike, too, several leaders, whose outstanding achievements in carrying out the special tasks



allotted to them stand out conspicuously and deserve grateful consideration. The work of Brother David Fruhling, of Local 10, as chairman of the Picket Committee, and of Bro. Jos. Breslaw, both during the strike and in the weeks that followed its official termination, deserves high praise. Among the other chairmen of the strike sub-committees, attention should be drawn to the splendid work of Brother N. Kirtzman as chairman of the General Organization Committee, whose activity extended for many weeks beyond the general walkout, and his assistants, Moser, Snelder and Rosenblatt; Edward F. McGrady, head of the Law Committee, whose tireless efforts to protect our men and women on the picket lines will always be remembered with deep gratitude by our organization; Jacob Halpern, chairman of the Out-of-Town Committee, who handled his work with dispatch and ability, and Maurice W. Jacobs, secretary; Harry Wander, secretary of the Law Committee and of the Finance Committee; Salvatore Ninfo and Isidore Sorkin, chairman and secretary, respectively of the Settlement Committee; Benjamin Kaplan, chairman, and Samuel Lefkovits, secretary, of the Hall Committee; Abraham Baroff, chairman of the Finance Committee; Julius Hochman, chairman, and Fannia M. Cohn, of the Speakers' Committee; Max Stoller, chairman, and D. Rubin, secretary, of the Relief Committee, and many others.

But, as we stated already, it would be next to the impossible to enumerate, within the limits of this report, with any degree of fair appraisal all those who had helped to make this strike such an outstanding success. We shall, therefore, give here the complete personnel of the entire Strike Committee, with all its sub-committees, each of which has contributed its utmost, within its allotted scope of work, towards the success of the entire undertaking:

#### ADVISORY BOARD

B. SCHLESINGER	ISIDOR NAGLER	MAX STOLLER
D. DUBINSKY	J. BRESLAW	J. HALPERIN
A. BAROFF	HARRY WANDER	D. FRUHLING
S. NINFO	J. HOCHMAN	N. KIRTZMAN

#### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS of GENERAL STRIKE COMMITTEE

BENJAMIN SCHLESINGER, Chairman  
DAVID DUBINSKY, Acting Chairman  
ISIDORE NAGLER, 1st Vice-Chairman  
MAX STOLLER, 2nd Vice-Chairman  
HARRY WANDER, Secretary

#### GENERAL HALL COMMITTEE

BENJAMIN KAPLAN, Chairman  
S. LEFKOVITS, Secretary  
JOSEPH BRESLAW, Vice-Chairman  
RANILIO DESTI, Vice-Chairman  
A. STUDENT, Vice-Chairman  
L. KAUFMAN, Vice-Chairman  
J. STENKEVICH, Vice-Chairman



## HALL COMMITTEES

### BRYANT HALL

Chairman—L. Levi, Local 2  
Secretary—A. Wigman, Local 2  
Vice-Chairman—B. Rosenberg, Local 9

### WENSTER HALL

Chairman—M. J. Ashbes, Local 2  
Secretary—J. Warshowsky, Local 17  
Vice-Chairman—S. Amlslofsky, Local 9

### STUYVESANT CASINO

Chairman—R. Zuckerman, Local 2  
Secretary—B. Gollum, Local 2  
Vice-Chairman—H. Saltsberg, Local 9

### ABLINGTON HALL

Chairman—S. Perlmutter, Local 10  
Secretary—Louis Pankin, Local 10  
Vice-Chairman—N. Saperstein, Local 10

### LENEX ASSEMBLY ROOMS

Chairman—Jake Miller, Local 2  
Secretary—A. C. Miller, Local 9  
Vice-Chairman—L. Klotz, Local 17

### ASTORIA HALL & ANNEX

Chairman—M. Goldowsky, Local 35  
Secretary—I. Black, Local 2  
Vice-Chairman—Sam Berman, Local 9

### ROYAL MANSION

Chairman—Max Gordon, Local 10  
Secretary—M. Brass, Local 2  
Vice-Chairman—J. Wallach, Local 9

### HENNINGTON HALL

Chairman—N. Hines, Local 2  
Secretary—M. Carolinsky, Local 35  
Vice-Chairman—Felix Reis, Local 9  
Vice-Chairman—Sam Leader, Local 10

### CLINTON HALL

Chairman—I. Etkin, Local 2  
Secretary—H. Dorfman, Local 35  
Vice-Chairman—S. Resnick, Local 2  
Vice-Chairman—Carl Bercovici, Local 9  
Vice-Chairman—I. Cohen, Local 9

### UKRANIAN HALL

Chairman—Sol. Metz, Local 2  
Secretary—H. Libow, Local 2  
Vice-Chairman—M. Kurts, Local 3

## HARLEM

### CLAREMONT HALL

M. Schechter, Local 35  
Mike Mariconadi, Local 48  
A. Tolchinsky, Local 9

## BROOKLYN

### ROYAL PALACE

Charles Carotonuto, Local 48  
M. J. Stern, Local 2  
J. Friedman, Local 9  
E. Piccione, Local 48  
N. Crivello, Local 49  
Phillip Lazar, Local 35

## BROWNSVILLE

### LABOR LYCEUM

H. Chancer, Local 2  
Philip Kaufman, Local 2  
B. Bratt, Local 35

## BENSONHURST

### BORO PARK LABOR LYCEUM

A. Cottone, Local 48  
M. Hein, Local 2  
Morris Levinthal, Local 17

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NICHOLAS KIRTZMAN, Chairman  
BENJAMIN MOSER, Secretary  
LEON ROSENBLATT, Vice-Chairman  
SAMUEL FREEMAN, Vice-Chairman  
JACK SNYDER, Vice-Chairman  
ALFRED INGULLI, Vice-Chairman  
J. GOLD, Vice-Chairman

## INSTRUCTION, ADJUST- |AND WORKING CARD DEPARTMENT

L. Rosenblatt, Local 82, Chairman  
H. Fried, Local 2, Secretary

## INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT

J. Snyder, Manager Local 17, Chairman  
Chas. Jacobson, Secretary

## NON-UNION DEPARTMENT

J. Gold  
Local 35—Vice Chairman  
H. Shusterman,  
Local 2—Secretary

## PICKET COMMITTEE

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MAX COHEN, Vice-Chairman  
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PHILIP KATZ, Vice-Chairman

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## OUT-OF-TOWN COMMITTEE

JACOB HALPERN, Chairman  
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LOUIS LANGER, Vice-Chairman  
LEO ARCH, Vice-Chairman  
NICOLA PLACELLA DOTI  
CHAR. CIRRICIONE  
M. PANKEN  
SOLOMON GOLDSTEIN  
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## SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE

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ISRAEL FEINBERG, Vice-Chairman  
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M. KIPNISS  
L. SCHWAGER

## Help from Our Unions and the General Movement

Seldom has a strike of New York cloakmakers received such warm support, moral and material alike, as did the last strike—from our own unions, from the Labor movement the country over, and even from labor organizations abroad. It would seem as if the entire mass of organized workers everywhere had realized that this was not an ordinary strike for a higher wage or for an hour less of work, but a movement for the revival of a great union which only a few years ago occupied a place of honor in the front rank of American Labor.

Our own organizations came through splendidly, despite the fact that the strike actually lasted less than two weeks. It must also be borne in mind that only a few months before the strike was called our more important organizations outside of New York City, as reported elsewhere, subscribed heavily to the Reconstruction Bond Loan issued by the International and that their treasuries had already been heavily tapped. Immediately after the strike became a fact, the Cleveland Joint Board summoned jointly with the Cleveland Central Labor Union a conference of all labor unions in that city, which pledged to raise a big fund for the New York strikers. The Cleveland Joint Board, on its own account, wired \$5,000 as its initial contribution to the strike chest. The Chicago Joint Board followed suit with a donation of \$12,000, promising to send more in the event of need, while the Philadelphia cloakmakers and dressmakers came forth with a first

contribution of \$5,000. From St. Louis, where we have but a small organization, a check of \$600 came by wire on the first day of the strike, with a pledge of further remittance. The Los Angeles cloakmakers' local, with the cooperation of the Los Angeles Central Labor Union, upon the initiative of Secretary Buzzel, called a conference of all local labor bodies to organize financial support for the New York strikers. The Toronto Joint Board sent \$800, and even Montreal, where we had but a small local of cutters, rallied a number of labor unions to a conference where money support for the New York cloakmakers was pledged and \$355 forwarded. The I. L. G. W. U. locals in Boston, financially weak as they were, assisted the strike. The Ladies' Tailors of New York, Local 38, in addition to a heavy bond subscription, sent a contribution of \$3,000, promising more aid if the strike became prolonged.

A flood of messages of good will and assurances of support began to reach the General office of the International the moment the strike was declared. The appeal made by our International Union to the general labor movement found a hearty response in the widest labor circles in the country. The trade union movement was aroused to the fact that the New York cloakmakers, who constitute the backbone of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, were fighting a life-and-death battle for humane conditions in their industry, in the first place, and for the preservation of American trade unionism in a section of the movement where it had nearly been wiped out by an insidious attack of a crafty group of political charlatans. The assignment by President Green of Brother Edward F. McGrady, special representative of the A. F. of L., to assist the cloakmakers in every manner possible during the strike, and the invaluable aid rendered by Brother McGrady was a great contribution to the cause of our Union.

All during the strike, and after it came to a conclusion, the leadership of the A. F. of L. kept in constant touch with the leaders of the cloak strike ready to be of service whenever called upon. And in August, when the Executive Council met in regular session in Atlantic City, N. J., and President Schlesinger appeared before the heads of the American trade union movement to tell the story of the strike, of its achievements, and of the further organizing plans of the I.L.G.W.U., especially of the drive to bring the great dressmaking in-

dustry of New York under complete union control, he was promised further friendly cooperation by the Executive Council. A sample of the deep interest of the American Federation of Labor in the recent work of the I. L. G. W. U. and of the significance it attaches to its contribution to the general cause of the American trade union movement, is the unique decision made by President William Green, editor of the "Federationist," the official organ of the A. F. of L., to devote its entire issue for the current month of December to the I. L. G. W. U., its past and recent problems, struggles and achievements. Articles for this issue will be written by a number of labor journalists familiar with the history of our Union. Besides this, the Toronto Convention of the A. F. of L. this year unanimously adopted a resolution, introduced by Delegate Nagler, commenting in the highest terms on the recent progress made by our Union, and pledging its undivided support in the future.

The section of the labor movement in New York nearest to us, the unions with which we have always maintained close contact in days of peaceful progress and in times of stress and trouble as well—have displayed in this strike too a spirit of fraternity and of cooperation that has made our ties with them even closer than before. Thus the Amalgamated Clothing Workers responded splendidly by sending a contribution of \$10,000 towards the strike fund, the Workmen's Circle donated \$5,000, the Poalei Zion (the Zionist Labor Party), gave \$1,000, the Baker's Union sent \$1,000, the Hebrew Actor's Union contributed \$500, besides a number of lesser contributions from many smaller organizations. But help from these unions came not only in the form of money. Several of their leaders came to the strike halls, exhorting the striking cloakmakers to stand fast by their organization for their own sake and for the sake of the trade union movement as a whole. Among those who addressed our meetings were Jacob Baskin, General Secretary of the Workmen's Circle, Jos. Weinberg, Chairman of the Circle, A. I. Shiplacoff, General Manager of the International Pocket Book Worker's Union, Abraham Miller, Secretary of the Amalgamated Joint Board in New York, Morris Feinstone, Secretary of the United Hebrew Trades, B. C. Vladeck, of the Jewish Daily Forward, N. Chanin, H. Yager, B. Ehrenreich, A. Hamlin, B. Weinstein, Norman Thomas, Edward F. McGrady, Chas. Solo-



mon, A. Claessens, Paul Dembitzer, A. Hershkowitz, J. Roberts, Rose Schneiderman, Matthew Woll, G. Valenti, V. Vacirca, D. Ruggieri, C. Bertello, and C. Romualdi.

But interest in the cloakmakers' strike and support for it came not only from the United States. One of the most heartening incidents of the conflict was the receipt on the third day of the strike, of a cablegram from Brother Martin Plettl, secretary of the Deutsche Bekleidungsarbeiter Verband (German Clothing Worker's Union), from Berlin, containing an expression of good wishes for the outcome of the strike together with a remittance of \$5,000 for the strike fund. The message created an outburst of joy among the strikers; it was as tangible an expression of international solidarity of labor as our workers have ever received during the entire history of their organization. Later, in September, when President Schlesinger visited Germany, he had an opportunity of appearing before a special meeting of the Executive Board of the German Clothing Workers' Union and expressing to them in behalf of the membership of the I. L. G. W. U. deep appreciation for their genuine fraternity and sincere interest in the welfare of their comrades and fellow workers in the United States.

During the strike, the General Strike Committee also received messages pledging support and extending good wishes from Brother T. Van Der Heeg, secretary of the International Clothing Workers' Federation, with headquarters in Amsterdam, Holland, and from Israel Mereminsky, secretary of the Palestine Workers' Federation (The Histadruth), located in Jerusalem, with an enclosure of \$200 for the strikers.

#### Enlightened Support from the Press

Rarely has the entire press of the metropolis treated a labor conflict with such clear insight and intelligent understanding as it did the last cloak strike.

At the outset, when the first rumblings of the strike began to reverberate, some of the newspapers, it is true, adopted a puzzled attitude. They were inclined to doubt the "need of another strike," that might disturb the equilibrium of an industry and add confusion to the life of the city. But as the issues of the controversy were becoming clarified, the "gentle-



men of the press" realized with remarkable alertness that this was not merely another "cloakmaker strike" but a courageous stand on the part of a trade union to stem the process of demoralization of a great industry into a sweat shop jungle.

The rational, well-balanced publicity work carried on by the International prior to and during the strike, helped to create an atmosphere of sound understanding of the issues underlying the conflict. While the strike was in progress and during the weeks it was being liquidated, editorial comment on it in the metropolitan press displayed a fine grasp of the aims and aspirations of the cloak workers and of our Union which enlisted on their side every constructively-minded element in the city and helped materially in bringing the strike to a successful end.

Outstanding among the newspapers whose news gatherers and editorial writers alike have helped to mould a powerful public opinion in favor of the striking cloakmakers, we wish to mention with deep gratitude The New York Times, The New York World, The Herald-Tribune, The New York American, The New York Evening Journal, The Daily News, The Jewish Morning Journal, The New York Telegram, The Evening World and, last but not least, Women's Wear Daily. It need hardly be mentioned here that the Jewish Daily Forward, which espouses the cause of our workers every day in the week all year around, has rendered during this strike a tremendous service to the cloakmakers which they will never forget. The Day, which for several years past has given support to the Communist "lefties," on one hand, and tried to appear as an "impartial friend" of the cloakmakers, on the other, acted its usual part during this strike, except that towards the end, when the great victory of our Union became apparent to everybody, it, too, put on a friendly face and jumped on the cloakmakers' bandwagon. The cloakmakers, however, have good memories and they will probably not forget the "union-friendliness" of this sheet for a long time to come.

When the strike came to an end, the International Office, prompted by a feeling of warm recognition, tendered the representatives of the New York press a dinner at the Hotel Astor, on July 30th, which was attended by about thirty-five men from the staffs of the principal New York papers and by a score of Union leaders. Speeches were made by Edward F.

McGrady, John J. Leary, Jr., Matthew Woll, Robert Morris, Louis Stark, Richard Rohman, publicity director of the Union, B. C. Vladek, Harry Rogoff, Benjamin Schlesinger and David Dubinsky.

## AFTER THE STRIKE

### Post-Strike Activity

It has taken more than two months to wind up the strike with all its after-growths and developments. The brunt of this post-strike work fell naturally to the General Organization and Picket Committees, both of which remained functioning, with reduced forces, long after the strike officially was terminated.

The Organization Committee, which had to put the enormous number of newly organized and unionized shops in proper shape and to adjust the standing of the new and re-joined members had a singularly difficult task to perform. The size of this task may be estimated when it is taken into account that, as a result of the strike, 25,000 took out working cards and that by the time the short, decisive conflict ended, the cloak locals in New York had on their active rolls about 28,000 members, nearly the entire working strength of the New York cloak industry. The Picket Committee, which acquitted itself splendidly during the weeks of the strike, also continued to operate. Suffice it to say that in the course of ten weeks nearly 600 new shops were brought under the wing of the Union.

### The Strike Day Tax

Among the solid accomplishments of the three months following the strike stands out the one-day strike tax pledged by the cloak shop chairmen to the Union at the memorable Webster Hall meeting on July 15.

This strike tax was voted as "ammunition for the war against the non-union shops"—to make it possible for the active workers on the firing lines to keep up the bombardment against the sweat shops. Needless to say that the Union had commenced the big fight without adequate funds, and while the strike itself proved to be the least expensive one ever

waged by the Cloakmakers' Joint Board in New York, it required substantial funds. Actually, we began the strike with no more than \$35,000 in our treasury, as practically all the money raised by the International from the bond issue loan and from other loans went to cover the most urgent judgments arising from lawsuits brought against the Joint Board by manufacturers whose security deposits had been unlawfully used up by the Communist marauders in 1926. The same use was made of the \$40,000 raised from a tax levied by the Joint Board right after we returned from the Boston convention. Prior to the strike, the Joint Board also levied a tax which brought in about \$50,000 before the strike and was applied to outstanding debts. It must also be remembered that, owing to the large increase in the number of shops to be controlled, the Joint Board immediately after the strike had to increase substantially both its outside and inside staffs.

The response of the cloakmakers to the appeal of the Union for a day's pay to keep up the fight against the bottleg shops, which brought in within less than two months the sum of over \$175,000, is all the more remarkable when it is considered that this strike tax was being collected not on the eve of a strike but weeks and months after the bulk of the workers had returned to the shops. It is quite apparent that the cloakmakers in this instance were giving their money gladly, willingly, not with the prospect of some immediate gains for themselves, but because they were ardently desiring a strong and effective union that would safeguard for them decent work-conditions in a humanized, cleaned-up industry.

#### Control Commission at Work

Early in August, Governor Roosevelt appointed the three persons that were to represent the general public on the permanent Joint Control Commission in the Cloak and Suit Industry provided for by the settlement.

The Governor's appointees were, Mrs. Casper Whitney, of the New York Woman's City Club, Dr. S. S. Goldwater, former health commissioner of New York City, and George W. Alger, a well-known attorney, who acquired an excellent reputation in prison reform work, in addition to Impartial Chairman Raymond V. Ingersoll. Representing the Union on this Joint Commission were President Schlesinger and Isidore Nagler, general manager of the New York Joint Board. The Indus-

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trial Council, the Merchant Ladies' Garment Association and the American Cloak Manufacturers' Association also appointed permanent representatives. Mr. Alger was chosen chairman of the Commission.

The Governor's selection of the three representatives of the public on the Joint Commission was hailed by all the factors in the cloak industry as a force for good strengthened by the ability and experience which the three designees could bring in furthering the process of stabilizing industrial standards. The representatives of the Union expressed satisfaction with the fact that the new commissioners were "all sympathetic to the legitimate aspirations of labor."

The Commission held its first meeting on August 20, and as a first step authorized a fact-finding survey of the cloak industry in the entire New York market. This survey was put under the direction of Mr. Ingersoll, who was also named executive director of the Commission. This survey is expected to take three months, and is to be financed by a fund contributed by the Union, the three employers' associations, and by independent jobbers and manufacturers in contractual relations with the Union. The spirit in which the Control Commission is planning to go about its work is reflected in the statement covering the scope of the pending survey and the outline of its future work issued after the first meeting of the Commission by Chairman Alger. It follows in substance:

"The organized factors in this industry are to be congratulated upon their many constructive achievements and especially upon the accomplishments of the past two months in producing an industrial unity essential to meet the disorganization of the past. Some of these achievements as reported to us are there:

"The union has registered and sent back to work nearly 25,000 workers. This process is still going on and it seems evident that the percentage of organized workers represented before the commission will soon be as large as or larger than ever before.

"In the metropolitan district, 531 firms, previously not affiliated with the union, have entered into contractual relations.

"The Industrial Council of Manufacturers has increased its membership from 157 to 227. The Merchants' Association of Jobbers has grown from 53 members to 85. The American Association of Manufacturers has increased from 406 to 868, besides the new affiliations with it of 156 shops in Brooklyn.



"All this could have come about only through a concerted and sustained effort on all sides to bring a greater degree of unity into a situation where a greater unity is urgently needed and is essential.

"The spirit of cooperation developed by the organized groups now functioning with the commission has been contagious. Shops which have never before subscribed to enlightened industrial standards have been fast falling into line.

"This commission is rather unusual in its form. On it are the chosen representatives of each of the organized groups as well as representatives of the public designated by the governor. One of the functions of this commission is to enlist the aid of the great fair-minded American buying public in support of decency and fair standards in this essential industry. It is a part of the business of the commission to study and apply methods of extending and making public facts which will enable public opinion to function intelligently by putting its support on the side of industrial fair play. This will be done. In the meantime, the existing and developing cooperation of the industry will give the commission a foundation for asking fair cooperation from the great retail interests and its promises well for the elimination of sweat shop conditions where such conditions still exist."

The second official act of the Joint Control Commission indicative of its attitude towards trade problems in general, dealt with the controversy between the American Association, acting for the cloak sub-manufacturers, and the Merchants Ladies' Garment Association, the organized jobbers. The dispute arose in August over a demand of the contractors for fixed, uniform prices that "would enable them to maintain union conditions in their shops." Naturally, the workers in the contractors' shops were keenly interested in this dispute as it involved directly the issue of union wage scales and work-standards. The matter was brought before the Commission on September 3, 1929, when the American Association ordered fifty of its shops to stop work for certain jobbers after the latter refused to pay prices that would permit, as the sub-manufacturers stated, meeting the labor scales called for in the union agreement. The jobbers protested against these stoppages.

The Commission handed down, through Chairman George W. Alger, the following decision:

"The Commission recommends the following plan to alleviate the present price condition, and the procedure here outlined affecting disputes between members of the American Association, the Merchants' Association, and the Industrial Council:



"1) That the Joint Committee referred to in paragraph four of the contract between the American and Merchants' Associations shall proceed immediately to arrive at a scientific and practical minimum cost of production.

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"2) In the interim and until a decision is reached by the Joint Committee or the Impartial Chairman, hereinafter referred to, the Managers of both Associations will endeavor, in the first instance, to adjudicate individual disputes involving the question of labor costs. If they shall fail to agree, they will submit their difference to the Joint Committee for disposition.

"3) In the event that the Joint Committee shall fail to agree upon a minimum labor cost within three weeks from this date, the entire subject of labor costs and standards will be submitted to Raymond V. Ingersoll as Impartial Chairman, for his determination, and his decisions when made, shall be final, binding and conclusive upon the entire cloak and suit industry.

"4) Until such final determination, there will be no stoppages of any kind or nature, nor will any be threatened, and the officers and representatives of the American Association will carry out this obligation in letter and in spirit. All work in the process of manufacture must be completed.

"5) If there is a price dispute respecting which the Managers, in the first instance, are endeavoring to reach a conclusion, the work shall nevertheless proceed, and the price finally determined by the Managers, or by the Joint Committee, or by the Impartial Chairman shall prevail.

"It is the belief of the Commission that if the foregoing course is pursued, it will result beneficially to all factors concerned and aid materially in the stabilization of the industry."

Since the strike, the Union has insisted upon a policy of heavy fines to be imposed upon all firms violating the agreement and has succeeded in adhering strictly to it. The Industrial Council, upon the Union's complaint, has already fined several of its members sums as high as \$1,500, and the Union will carry out this policy with regard to members of the Merchants Garment Association as well. There will be a heavy arm descending upon the heads of all such as might be tempted to treat their contract with the Union lightly. The fines go to the Joint Control Commission.

The leadership of the Union, and our membership, expect a great deal from the Joint Control Commission. As we already had an opportunity to state elsewhere, we do not expect this Commission, or any other similar body for that matter, to keep up a union for us and to safeguard work conditions in the shops for us. We, nevertheless, expect this

joint representation group to keep alive the interest of the public in the struggle of the cloakmakers against the evils and hardships which beset their seasonal industry, to focus the attention of the community on the constant menace of a recurrence, under one guise or another, of the cursed sweat shop conditions, and to exert thereby a strong influence against every attempt by any factor in the industry to sidestep its responsibility at the ultimate expense of and detriment to the workers.

#### **Work on Hand; Work Ahead**

Gradually, within the last two months, the Cloakmakers' Union in New York has returned to a peace footing and resumed its routine work.

This routine work, naturally, is not as exciting as a strike. But it is the most important work of a trade union, the most essential for its existence. In our case, today, it is besides, a steady persevering grind to consolidate the gains won through the strike and to entrench our positions. We must bear in mind that during this great strike movement we have taken into our fold thousands upon thousands of new members, people who for several years stayed away from the Union, either under the influence of a malicious propaganda or through apathy and indifference. These workers have during these years become accustomed to a state of irresponsibility in the shop. They must be educated and taught to think in terms of loyal unionism and to honest adherence to union rules, benefits and obligations.

In other words, we must not only get the employers used to the idea that there is once again a powerful cloakmakers' organization on the job in the cloak industry, but we must also imbue the workers with the conviction that there is again a union in every shop and in the industry as a whole which stands on guard and exercises control. This is not merely an administrative task but an educational task of a large order as well. The Cloakmakers' Union today belongs wholly to its members, uncontrolled by any outside influence and free to mould its own destiny and policies. The leadership of the Union has made good its pledge and has opened the doors of the organization wide to every man and woman making his or her living in the trade to come and join in its work and government.

This spirit of sincere cooperation for the sake of the Union, this interest in its welfare, growth and advancement should be kept up everlastingly in our midst. This is routine, not spectacular work, and at times wearisome and exhausting, but it is the work upon which the life and future of our Union depends.

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We have not gained during the last strike, let us remember, all we have set out to achieve. There is still the important question of a wage raise for all our crafts that has to be won, an objective, which, we are confident, we shall gain after the present survey in the cloak industry, under the direction of the Joint Control Commission, is completed. There is also the problem of unemployment insurance in the cloak industry which must be adjusted in a forward-looking and equitable manner in the near future. The Union must also cope with the sweatshop and sub-standard evils, which still exist in some sections of the industry. All these problems belong, in the nature of our present relationship with all the other factors in the cloak trade, under the heading of routine work that lies ahead of us.

## NEW YORK DRESSMAKERS

### Years of Watchful Waiting

We are on the eve of decisive events in the dress industry of New York. The period of confusion and impotence, of tremendous industrial expansion, on the one hand, and of dwindling union control of labor conditions, on the other, is drawing to an end. The Union is challenging the chaos which has reduced the majority of the shops in this great industry to the level of sweat shops. There is a great conflict looming, unless an enlightened sense of responsibility and recognition of human obligations by the employers intervenes to forestall it.

Only about eight years ago the dress trade of New York was among our well organized industries. In 1921, the Union had more than twenty-two thousand members in the dress locals and exercised a strong influence in most of the important shops. The decline in membership and in union con-

trol began simultaneously with the advent of Communist propaganda. The employers in the dress industry could have wished for no more loyal ally than the Communist "revolutionists," who exploited the emotionalism and Russian partisanship of the dressmakers, most of them women, to create distrust, antagonism and, later, to foster scabbery and disloyalty in every shop to which they gained access.

It is not necessary, we believe, to go into the details of the tragic disintegration of the dress organization. You all know how the Communist agitators had gained hold of the administration of the main dress local in New York City, No. 22, even before they had managed to penetrate any of the cloak locals; how for years their control of that local had served them as a post of vantage from which to disrupt our other organizations, and how they used the revenue of this local for their insidious propaganda.

By the end of 1926, the dress organization in New York City, under Communist tutelage, to all practical purposes ceased to exist as a factor in industry. There remained a skeleton of the old organization with a membership that has dwindled down to insignificant proportions; in the overwhelming majority of the shops union conditions actually were unheard of, and respect for the Union as a whole dropped to a zero point. The once proud Union of the dressmakers had become just another "revolutionary" nucleus of the Communist clique and a positive hindrance to any constructive activity among the masses of the workers who sweated and toiled in the shops under conditions approaching those which existed before a union ever was organized in the industry, in 1909. Even the Italian Dressmakers' Union, Local 89, which for years resisted the effects of Communist demoralization, has become materially weakened as a result of Communist domination both in Local 22 and in the New York Joint Board at that time. The Communist commissars used every opportunity to harass and obstruct the normal life of this Local which refused to take orders from them and resisted their wrecking tactics.

The first break in this hopeless situation came toward the end of 1926, after the Communist debacle in the cloak strike. The reorganization movement initiated by the International was extended to the dressmakers and resulted in the forma-



tion of a considerable local with several thousand members. During 1927 and 1928, the Joint Board carried on persistent organizing activities, with the aid of the International and Local 22, making steady inroads into the huge non-union territory of the dress trade and fighting on two fronts—against the open shop employers who practically forgot that there was a union in the industry, and against the Communist outfit which still held sway over a group of workers and operated openly as a scab agency. During this period the dressmakers' local strengthened its position materially in a number of shops belonging to the members of the employers' association, with which a collective agreement was signed twice in 1927 and 1928. It is, of course, known to you that the Boston convention endorsed a strike of New York dressmakers for the end of 1928. It became, however, apparent to the General Executive Board that we must clean up the cloak situation first, and that was the reason why we had to content ourselves in the end of 1928 with a renewal of the agreement with the dress associations and to concentrate all our efforts on the cloak field.

Early this year, Pres. Schlesinger, following out a decision of General Executive Board, formed a Dress Trade Council, consisting of representatives of the dress locals and of Locals 10 and 35, to devote itself exclusively to the working out of plans for the rehabilitation of the dress organization and to coordinate the organizing activities of the locals primarily interested in this matter. The impending cloak strike and the preparations for it, however, did not permit this Dress Council to function for the time being. Moreover, it very soon became apparent to the General Executive Board that whatever gains might be obtained through periodical organizing drives, constructive as they might be, could not put the dress industry under union control. The General Executive Board realized that while the overwhelming majority of dressmakers in the New York market had broken away entirely from the group of Communist fanatics, the years of demoralization had had their effect, and that nothing short of a great movement, like the one that has revived and rebuilt into a compact organization the cloakmakers masses last summer, could bring the dressmakers back into their logical place, our International Union.

It is with such a goal in view that the General Executive Board last August, after the victorious conclusion of the cloak

strike, decided to launch a mass movement in the dress industry. At the same time, the G. E. B. decided to issue another quarter of a million dollar bond loan to raise a strike fund for the dressmakers. The feeble attempt of the Communists to provoke a strike among the dressmakers last winter has opened the eyes of even a great many of their former followers to the fact that the Communist orgy has come to an end. On the other hand, the marvelous outcome of the cloak strike, which has enthused the entire mass of garment workers throughout the country, has had a salutary effect on the dressmakers as well. The reborn organization of the cloakmakers shone forth as a bright example of what the will-to-do may achieve.

#### **Cloak Victory Electrifies Dressmakers**

The General Executive Board decided to proceed at once with its plans for a widespread dress campaign. As a first step in this direction President Schlesinger forwarded on August 26, 1929, a letter to some thirty-five hundred dress manufacturers, jobbers and contractors and also to their respective associations, as well as to manufacturers of children's dresses and custom dressmakers in the metropolitan district. The letter contained no fixed demands, but stated in unequivocal terms that the Union was determined to bring back to the workers fair working standards and decent living conditions at all cost. It reminded the employers that the agreements in the dress industry would expire at the end of the year, and that the Union is ready to meet in conference with the employers' organizations early in October, so as to give all parties sufficient time "for planning and ironing out difficulties before the expiration of the present agreement."

Simultaneously with the forwarding of this letter, the Dressmakers' Union, Local 22, working hand in hand with Italian Dressmakers' Union under the leadership of the Joint Board, began to extend its campaign and to prepare the workers openly for a general strike. President Schlesinger appointed vice-president Julius Hochman manager of the Dress Division of the Joint Board, after a conference with all local managers, to assume charge of the dress campaign. The response from every part of the industry—inside shops, contractor shops and suburban shops—has since been most encouraging. Shops by the dozen have begun to flock to union headquarters, and volunteer committees of dressmakers have been

formed to make contacts wherever possible and to spread the message abroad that the big day has finally dawned for the dressmakers, and that all the resources of the International would soon be thrown into the fight to pull the dressmakers out of the misery which prevails in their shops and to organize the industry.

What is most important, there is fresh confidence and faith among the dressmaker masses. There is a widespread belief that the Union is coming back to a position of power in the industry, not to gain a few shops here and there, but to make a clean sweep of the trade, just as it has swept the cloak trade from end to end during the last drive.

#### On the Eve of a General Strike

Within the first two months of the new campaign, Local 22 alone has gained upward of 2,600 new members and 160 new shops, in addition of a gain of over 1,000 by the Italian Dressmakers, Local 89, and the work is just beginning. Lines of workers, many of whom were not seen around union offices for several years past, are standing in front of the dues' windows eager to pay up arrears and to square up their standing in the Union. Tens of thousands of leaflets and circulars prepared by vice-president Julius Hochman have been distributed among the dress workers, agitating against sweatshops and substandard work condition. The campaign is carried on under the general supervision of the Joint Board, with general manager Isidor Nagler in charge, while vice-president Julius Hochman is directing it. Bro. Hochman is assisted in this big drive by Bro. Max Moskowitz, vice-president Joseph Breslaw, vice-president Luigi Antonini, manager of the Italian Dressmakers' Union, Local 89, secretary Joseph Spielman, of Local 22, David Fruhling, of Local 10, Max Guzman, and Louis Reiff, of Local 35, who is confining his activity to the dress pressers.

That the Union is planning to make a complete job of the present organizing campaign, leaving out no section of the industry or the workers, is evidenced by the special drive the leaders in charge of it are making to interest the three or four thousand Negro women workers employed in the dress shops. Besides appointing a special Negro woman organizer, Miss Floria Pinkney, to take charge of this part of the organizing campaign, the Joint Board inaugurated a series of meetings in Harlem to organize the colored dressmakers. The first

of these meetings was held on September 26 at St. Luke's Hall, and was addressed by Julius Hochman, A. Phillip Randolph, organizer for the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and Miss Pinkney. The keynote sounded at the meeting was that the exploitation of the colored people in the sweat shops even exceeds that of the white workers, but the Union is out now to eradicate this inequality together with other injustices prevailing in the dress shops. The International, as the Negro workers know, has never made any distinction as to race or color in accepting members and will insist that the scales of wages and hours and other work conditions are alike for every member of the Union.

One of the last moves in the pre-strike movement of the dressmakers was made on the evening of October 3, when at a joint meeting of all dressmaker locals and sections at Webster Hall, a committee of several hundred was elected to push the drive forward with all the means at the disposal of the organization. A great deal of preparatory work still has to be done in order to enable the Union to be in a commanding position to take down most of the strategic shops when the actual conflict takes place.

Of real significance is also the fact that this drive in the dress industry launched by our Union, is already receiving wide and intelligent comment in the daily press, which regards it of equal importance to the cloak campaign of last summer which brought about such marvelous results to the workers and to the cloak industry as a whole.

A significant development attesting to the impression which this campaign is creating in responsible quarters in the dress industry, was the formation within the last couple of months of an organization of "inside" dress employers along the lines of the Industrial Council in the cloak industry—the Affiliated Dress Manufacturers' Association. This makes now three associations of employers in the dress market, the other two being the Wholesale Dress Association, the jobbers' group, and the Associated Dress Manufacturers, Inc., a combination of manufacturers and contractors. The very fact that this organization of "inside" dress employers has come into being, is a sign that the dress industry is waking up and taking notice of the messy condition in the dress shops.



At the time of this writing, we are looking forward to the beginning of a series of conferences with the several dress associations. It is difficult at this moment to prognosticate what these conferences may lead to. The Union, however, is interested not so much in making a contract with this or that group of manufacturers but, principally, in stabilizing production standards in the industry itself, and in putting the workers' organization on a rockribbed foundation in the dress shops of New York. That is the soul which animates our drive, and nothing short of that will satisfy us.

Nevertheless, the General Executive Board views the future of our Union in the dress industry with greater confidence than in many years past. The tide of trade unionism which is rising high again in our trades in general after the unfortunate slump of the past half dozen years, is a tremendous psychological factor in our favor, and with the aid of intelligent and courageous leadership we shall be able to reach our goal in the dress industry as we have achieved it in the cloak trade of New York.

#### THE LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS OF CLEVELAND

##### Maintaining Unbroken Progress

Our Cleveland organization has kept, during the past year and a half, fully abreast of local industrial conditions, maintaining its positions intact and striving continually for steady improvement.

The Cleveland Joint Board renewed in November, 1928, its agreement with the Cleveland Ladies' Garment Manufacturers' Association for the year expiring December 1, 1929. All prevailing work terms were incorporated in that agreement without change. The two features of the Cleveland agreement which no other cloak market has, namely, the forty-week guarantee of employment and the special one-percent unemployment insurance fund for the workers in the outside shops and for the jobless, were both retained.

This was the ninth time the collective agreement had been renewed in the Cleveland market. While the negotiations were in progress, it so happened that three manufacturers went out of business, and this made the conference work

considerably harder. At times the outlook for a peaceful arrangement looked pretty bad, but thanks to the firm stand and good judgment of the agreement committee the contract was renewed without recourse to fighting.

As usual, the Cleveland cloak and dress workers, besides taking as good care as they are able of their own affairs, have during the past year time and again displayed their loyalty to and solidarity with the rest of the membership of the International. As mentioned elsewhere, the Cleveland Joint Board and its affiliated locals subscribed heavily to the Reconstruction Bond Issue launched by the International last December. And when acting president Dubinsky visited Cleveland in the end of May, 1929, in behalf of the New York cloakmakers, he received an enthusiastic reception and a pledge to support the coming strike to the limit of their ability. When the strike broke out early in July, vice-president Hochman visited Cleveland to present to the local workers the actual situation in New York. At a very successful meeting, addressed by vice-presidents Hochman and Kreindler, A. Katofsky and Louis Friend, the Cleveland cloakmakers decided to tax themselves a day's wages for the New York strikers. Within a few days the Cleveland organization forwarded \$15,000, and there is little doubt that it would have come forth with additional contributions had the strike lasted long enough to warrant it.

#### Union Celebrates 30th Anniversary

On Friday and Saturday, September 20 and 21, 1929, the cloakmakers of Cleveland celebrated the thirtieth birthday of Locals 26 and 27 of the I. L. G. W. U. The celebration was one of the most impressive in the history of the labor movement in Cleveland.

The International was represented at this anniversary affair by acting president David Dubinsky, first vice-president Ninfo and General Secretary Baroff. The Chicago Joint Board sent vice-president Morris Bialis, its manager, and David Borowitz, chairman. Toledo also sent two representatives, while the Cleveland Federation of Labor and the Ohio State Federation of Labor were represented by their presidents. Most of the other unions in Cleveland sent representatives. The meeting was addressed by Brothers Dubinsky, Baroff, Ninfo,

Kreindler, Katovsky, Friend and several old-timers, rank and file workers.

On Saturday night, September 21, several hundred local members attended a banquet at the Winton Hotel. Vice-president Kreindler acted as toastmaster at the banquet, and read messages of congratulations from hundreds of friends and well-wishers of the organization all over the country. President Schlesinger sent a cable from Europe expressing regret at his inability to be present on this occasion and promising the Cleveland cloakmakers to come and help them fight the battle for better living conditions and a living wage. Among those who responded to the chairman's toast were Brothers Harry McLaughlin, president of the Cleveland Federation of Labor, Louis Friend, chairman of the Joint Board, vice-president Bialis, vice-president Ninfo, David Borowitz of Chicago, Abraham Baroff, Abraham Katovsky, and acting president Dubinsky, who wound up the evening with an eloquent address. The anniversary committee published on this occasion an interesting souvenir journal containing a number of articles dealing with the history of the Cleveland organization for the past three decades.

Coincident with this celebration, the Cleveland Joint Board has launched a far-reaching organizing drive in the local cloak and dress industry to rid it of a number of irresponsible non-union shops which have grown up in the last few years, and also to introduce the 40-hour five-day week, and to revise upwards the local wage scale in all shops. The Cleveland leadership of the Union is determined to win every one of their demands, with the unanimous support of the rank and file, even at the cost of a general strike. The negotiations for the new agreement, which expires in December, are to start shortly.

At a great meeting of cloakmakers in the Public Auditorium on September 19, which was attended by practically every worker in the local shops, acting president Dubinsky sounded the keynote of the new campaign, declaring that the International and the New York cloakmakers are ready to come to the assistance of their Cleveland fellow members morally and materially. "You have helped us to win the strike in New York, and should you have to go out on strike, you may rest assured that we shall help you to the fullest capacity," Dubinsky concluded his address under the thunderous applause

of all assembled. Vice-president Kreindler, Abraham Katovsky, Louis Friend, who presided, and special International organizer Anna Epstein, appointed at the request of the Cleveland Joint Board to do organizing work among the local dressmakers, discussed the program of action and the urgency of the demands presented to the manufacturers. Max S. Hayes, veteran Cleveland labor leader, and Harry Rasse, of the Cleveland Federation of Labor, pledged to the cloakmakers the support of the 75,000 organized workers of the city in the event of a conflict.

The General Executive Board is eager to recognize with thanks the fine spirit of cooperation shown our Cleveland organization on every occasion by Brother Hayes, Rasse and Harry McLaughlin and James Mally, president and secretary respectively of the Cleveland Federation of Labor.

#### OUR PHILADELPHIA ORGANIZATION

##### Cloak and Dress Unions Amalgamate

Among the developments of the past year in Philadelphia should be listed the amalgamation of the cloakmakers' and dressmakers' organizations under one management and one joint board.

Such a combination has been broached in Philadelphia for quite a time, and discussions of the plan, both at member meetings and at executive meetings, have been going on for nearly six months. Last February the Joint Board cloak locals and the Dressmakers' Union, Local 50, approved of the plan by big majorities, and, after some difficulties had been ironed out, the amalgamation at last took place in June, 1929.

##### "Dual Union" Fails

Like in every cloak and dress center, the Communists have pursued in Philadelphia the same tactics of treason and disruption—both before and after the Boston convention.

Among the Philadelphia cloakmakers their intrigues came to a quick and sorry ending. The Communists, in general, have always had poor luck among the Philadelphia cloakmakers. So when they attempted in August, 1928, to put up opposition candidates to the regular trade union candidates, Brothers Domskey and Rubin, they were overwhelmingly



repudiated. After that they tried to form an opposition union. This attempt, however, met with dismal failure, and their meeting, called for this purpose under the auspices of New York commissars on August 10, 1928, though protected by a large detail of police, turned into a demonstration for the International. The meeting adopted a pledge to support the Union "to the last ounce of strength and energy" and to discipline every disloyal person who might lend aid to the disrupters. That was a mortal blow at the incipient "dual union" from which it never recovered.

In the dress trade, where the workers' organization has been less compact, the Communist wrecking gang naturally had a more convenient sphere for activity. Small wonder that all through 1928, Local 50, instead of devoting all its energy to the non-union shops, had to waste a lot of effort to ward off the malicious attacks of these disrupters. In every shop strike, Local 50 was sure to find the Communists ready to help the boss not only by abusing and maligning the union and its members but, in many cases, by downright scabbery. Nevertheless, Local 50 continued all through the fall and winter of 1928 to wage a steady educational activity among the unorganized shops, spreading literature, holding meetings, and tightening its hold in all shops.

In October, 1928, the General Office directed vice-president Hochman to assume charge of a more intensified campaign in the dress trade, which lasted for a couple of months. The Cloakmakers' Union helped materially in this drive by putting into the field a large committee of volunteers which cooperated with a committee of 150 volunteers drafted from the ranks of Local 50. Had the International been in a position to throw in a considerable amount of strength at that moment into that campaign, it is quite probable that it would have developed into a general movement and a trade-wide strike. The exigency in the cloak situation in New York, however, made such a diversion impossible, and the drive had to come to a close at the beginning of the spring season.

#### Cloakmakers Win Demands

After the cloak strike in New York had come to a close, the Philadelphia cloakmakers began to stir, and by the middle of July, vice-president Reisberg, who became the manager

of the Philadelphia organization in March, 1929, after he resigned as manager of the dress division of the New York Joint Board, notified the cloak manufacturers that as the agreement in the cloak trade was coming to an end, the Union would insist on several improvements in the new agreement. The cloakmakers decided to demand a five-day work-week instead of the 44 hour prevailing until that time and some other modifications. Without loss of time, the Joint Board ordered on July 30, 1929, a stoppage in all shops, which was promptly obeyed, the workers assembling at the Labor Institute to await further instructions. It is characteristic that the thin little Communist clique even on this occasion attempted to distribute a leaflet among the cloakmakers advising them not to stop from work, but their squeal was entirely ignored.

The stoppage was a complete success. The employers conceded the Union's demand within a few days, and the workers returned to the shops under the modified agreements. Besides, a number of "open" shops, which succeeded in dodging the Union's control for some time, were brought into the fold as a result of this walkout.

Among those who are always ready to lend a helping hand to our workers in Philadelphia we are glad to mention Brother Joseph Ritchey, general organizer of the A. F. of L. in that city,, and Edith Christiansen, of the Philadelphia branch of the Women's Trade Union League.

#### **Dressmakers Next**

The next big task in Philadelphia, as in the New York and Chicago markets, is the complete organization of the dress trade.

It is today on the mind of every active trade union man and woman in Philadelphia, whether cloakmaker or dressmaker, and it is the united opinion of all who have been watching the development of the dress situation in that city that this year is the big year for a widespread all-embracing movement that is bound to bring big results.

The stage for this struggle, which will probably be as tense and stubborn as any waged against the Philadelphia dress bosses in the past, is being set and the workers are ready to begin the final drive for a one-hundred per cent dress organization with greater confidence and faith in its outcome than at any time for many years past.

## THE CHICAGO CLOAK AND DRESS MAKERS

The history of the Chicago organization of the I. L. G. W. U. during the past year and a half, briefly summarized, is as follows:

Like in New York, the first task before the Chicago Joint Board after the Boston convention was ended, was the introduction of the 40-hour week in the cloak shops. After considerable opposition from the employers' associations which demanded that the 42-hour schedule be continued in force, the Joint Board ordered all shops on June 4, 1928, to begin work on the 40-hour schedule. Though some trouble had been anticipated at the start, the employers yielded and the new work-week soon became operative throughout the local industry. The Chicago Joint Board has by this achievement proved again that it is a live, efficient and wide-awake organization in control of work-conditions in the local market and possessing the allegiance of the overwhelming majority of the workers in the trade.

In the spring of 1929, the Chicago Joint Board scored a big victory in the local courts which put back under its control \$45,000 of its funds tied up for two years by the former Communist officeholders, defeated by the workers and cast out of the organization, on the pretext that the International "had no right" to supervise the local elections. Peter Sussman, the legal adviser of the I. L. G. W. U. in Chicago, succeeded, however, in convincing the court that, while the Communists had seceded from the International, they were still attempting to deceive the public by using the names and the authority of the Joint Board and of the I. L. G. W. U. The banks shortly thereafter transferred this money back to their rightful owner, the Chicago Joint Board.

Among the current problems in the Chicago organization, the problem of the dress industry, no doubt, occupies first place. The dress trade is, in size, still the biggest branch of the women's garment industry in the Chicago market, while the Union controls but a portion of the dress shops. During the past year and a half, the Joint Board has carried out several organizing drives in the dress industry, each of them yielding gratifying results and adding members to the Dressmakers' Local No. 100. It must also be kept in mind that the Chicago dressmakers' local was considerably more

damaged during and prior to the Communist temporary control of the local I. L. G. W. U. organization than any other local. They literally all but wiped out every vestige of trade unionism in the dress shops.

#### **Dress Drive Under Way**

Right now, the Chicago Joint Board is in the midst of an organization campaign in the dress trade which bids well to envelope the largest number of shops since the strike for the 40-hour week five years ago.

That strike, it will be recalled, had cost the Union a tremendous sum of money and has resulted in hundreds of arrests and contempt-of-court jailings. Actually the strike was smashed by the courts and the police, who gave the employers most cordial support. Work conditions in the unorganized dress shops have been the lowest in the history of the trade, men and women working for starvation wages and being driven under the lash of the employers.

The General Executive Board, keenly alive to the needs of the local dress trade, has asked acting president Dubinsky to visit Chicago last September and to survey the local situation. Brother Dubinsky has found a live organizational campaign extending to the entire dress trade, and supported wholeheartedly by all the cloak locals. At a special Joint Board meeting, Brother Dubinsky went over with the leaders of the Joint Board the needs and scope of the campaign to organize the dress shops and promised them the support of the International, if any need for it should occur.

The leadership of the Chicago organization during this period has been in the able hands of vice-president Morris Bialis, who was reelected manager in December, 1928, and who is loyally assisted by Brothers Abraham Rabinowitz and Phillip Davids, business agents, and by Brother M. A. Goldstein, secretary-treasurer.

During this period, the Chicago Joint Board and its locals have also generously supported the International Reconstruction Bond Loan issue by subscribing large sums of money. During the first week of the New York cloak strike in July, a large meeting of I. L. G. W. U. members in Chicago, at which vice-presidents Hochman, Mollie Friedman and Bialis, and David Borowitz, chairman of the Chicago Joint Board,



spoke, a voluntary tax of a day's wages was pledged toward the strike fund.

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As in the past, our organization in Chicago has found in Brothers John Fitzpatrick and Edward Nockels, president and secretary respectively of the Chicago Federation of Labor, staunch friends and supporters. We also wish to express our gratitude to Mr. Peter Sissman, our Chicago loyal comrade and attorney, to Brothers Rickert and Nelson of the Chicago trade union movement, and to Judges Henry Horner and Harry M. Fisher, voluntary industrial arbitrators, who have invariably been found ready to help our members by act and advice.

### THE BOSTON CLOAK AND DRESSMAKERS

We left our Boston locals, when the convention adjourned in May, 1928, in a rather precarious situation.

The Communist clique had imported quite a galaxy of its New York stars to convert Boston into a "center" for their newly-born "industrial union." It goes without saying that the Communists could not organize a constructive movement that would in any manner benefit the workers in the shops. In a small market like Boston, with a concentration of force, they could, nevertheless, succeed in wrecking the organized shops and in sabotaging union conditions wherever they existed, which they did for a considerable time. As an example of their "union activity," may be cited the case of the Worthmore Dress Company, a union shop where they declared a "strike" by issuing through one of their henchmen a fake strike order ostensibly coming from the Joint Board. They stationed a few "gorillas" in front of the shop on the following morning to prevent the union people from returning to work after they had learned of the "stunt" which the Communists perpetrated on them. The Joint Board was, in the end, compelled to resort to a court order to remove the Communist "protectors" from the shop and to permit the dressmakers to resume work.

Under these circumstances, the Boston Joint Board, aided by every loyal worker, was forced practically all during 1928, instead of devoting its activity to organization work, to waste all its energy in counteracting the treachery of these union-wreckers. The International leadership, concerned deeply with

the harmful effects of the Communist gang in Boston, has kept in constant touch with Boston, aiding in every possible way the Joint Board to preserve its lines against these desperate black-legs. Several times during that period, special committees of the G. E. B. visited Boston to advise the local leaders and to direct their counter-campaigns against the Communists. After Bro. Sol Polakoff was compelled to retire from union activity for a time due to a breakdown in health, vice-president Max Amur was placed in charge of the Boston Joint Board in October, 1928, and the systematic activity of rehabilitation was renewed. A mass-meeting on November 22, 1928, which crowded the big Convention Hall to the doors and was addressed by vice-presidents Breslaw, Ninfo, Amdur and Hochman, marked the first sign of returning union strength and influence among the Boston cloak and dress workers. The workers were warned to shun the Communist disrupters and not to be bullied by either sluggers or the bosses whose game they were playing.

Several other meetings, organized under International auspices, followed, and within a few months the results of this appeal to unity had already become apparent. And when vice-president Dubinsky visited the Boston locals in February, 1929, in the interests of the International Bond Loan, he was already in a position to report that the Boston "left union" was crumbling and that it was fast losing every shred of influence among the local workers. The manifesto issued by the International in January, 1929, appealing to all union men to rejoin the organization, helped materially in sobering up many local misguided workers.

#### **Preparing for a Showdown.**

Another milestone on the way towards the revival of the Boston organization was passed at a big installation meeting of newly elected officers on May 21, 1929, when Wells Memorial Hall was filled to the doors with hundreds of cloakmakers and dressmakers who came to listen to addresses by acting President Dubinsky and vice-presidents Breslaw and Amdur. The preparations for a general cloak strike in New York City were reaching their final stage, and the Boston cloakmakers were also thrilled with the prospects of the coming conflict. Vice-president Amdur gave a review of the organization work accomplished in Boston and appealed to the Boston workers to continue their good work in building up a

strong organization to back up the Union in its negotiations with the employers during the coming fall.

All through the summer of 1929, the Joint Board continued an unbroken agitation among the local workers, holding meetings, spreading literature, and exhorting them to return to their old home. During this period acting president Dubinsky visited Boston a few times to address meetings, the one held on September 11 at Lorimer Hall having produced an especially deep impression on the workers. The outcome of the New York strike, in general, has created a favorable influence on the Boston workers and has stirred up the dormant elements even among the dressmakers, who are now determined to organize the old non-union dress shops and the new unorganized shops which have sprouted out in the local market. During the early days of the New York cloak strike, a mass-meeting of Boston cloakmakers and dressmakers, addressed by Brothers Amdur, Hochman, Kramer and Morabito, pledged a day's wages toward the support of the New York strikers.

Another feature of the general preparatory campaign in Boston is the organization of open forums, after the fashion of the forums which created such a profound interest in New York last winter. These open discussion-meetings, where everyone is permitted to ask questions and to speak freely his or her mind, have brought a great deal of life to local cloak and dress circles. Thanks to these meetings, a number of former followers of the "left" demagogues have renounced their mentors and rejoined their locals.

On the whole, the situation in Boston is today in better shape than it has been for several years past. The Union has come back to life and is carrying on vigorously constructive educational work. The entire Boston market, the dressmakers as well as the cloakmakers, are getting ready for the coming showdown, and the feeling is universal that a general strike cannot be avoided. And when this strike comes, the General Executive Board is confident, the overwhelming majority of the local workers will be found lined up solidly to defend the position of their Union.

Vice-president Amdur is in charge of general activities in Boston, and is ably assisted in his work by vice-president Philip Kramer. At the request of vice-president Amdur, Bro.

Hurwitz was assigned by the General Office for temporary organizing work in Boston. Our organization work in that city has received wide support from the representatives of the general labor movement in Boston, and we desire to express our special gratitude for their loyal assistance to Brother Harry P. Grages, business agent of the Boston Central Labor Union, John Van Warenwyck, ex-president of the Mass. Federation of Labor, Miss Mary Thompson and Miss Julia O'Connor of the Boston Women's Trade Union League, and to George F. Roewer and Joseph Bearack, our attorneys in that city.

### THE CLOAKMAKERS OF CANADA

#### New Life in Toronto

The account of the condition of the cloak markets in the two Canadian cities, Toronto and Montreal is not a cheerful one. In fact, the cloak situation, from the viewpoint of the Union and from the viewpoint of the industry as well, has been far from bright in these two cities for a number of years past.

The factor which contributed most to the weakening of the Union in Toronto and to the consequent lowering of earnings and union standards in the shops, was the seizure of power in the Toronto Joint Board by a few petty Communist politicians back in 1925, who, as usual, spent most of their time and the Union's resources in playing their party's game and in advancing their party's aims, utterly neglecting to protect the interests of the cloakmakers in the shops. The result was that the cloak bosses in Toronto began to regard the Union as a joke.

It took almost a half year, after the Boston convention, to put these commissars out of office. This was finally accomplished early in October, 1928, when, after an election, the "left" crew was replaced in office by a group of loyal unionists in Local 14, the operators' local and their former stronghold. The election was preceded by a member rally on September 10, which was addressed by Vice-president Julius Hochman, who reminded the Toronto cloakmakers that it is high time to begin building up an effective union if they don't want to return to a condition of semi-slavery in the shops.



With the removal of the Communist malefactors from office, the Toronto cloakmakers, for the first time in several years proceeded to practical union activity. It was necessary, first, to put the union on a self-sustaining basis, to convince the cloakmakers that they must become members in good standing again. Committees were formed to visit the shops and to approach individual members who had stayed away from the Union, disgusted with or demoralized by the Communist politicians and to awaken new interest among them. During the early winter months considerable headway was achieved, and the Toronto locals came to normal life again.

During the fall season of 1929, the Toronto Joint Board carried on organizing work among the many "open" shops which have multiplied in the local industry during the days of the Communist regime. It is quite apparent, however, that the losses sustained by the Toronto cloakmakers through the sabotage and neglect of the Communists, cannot be recouped without a general strike. It is this objective that the Toronto Joint Board is now aiming at, and is straining all energies to prepare the cloakmakers for the coming conflict.

Acting president Dubinsky visited Toronto on September 11, and found, after conferences with several active local workers, the sentiment for a general strike very high. Later, in October, while visiting Toronto as delegates to the convention of the A. F. of L., Brothers Dubinsky and Nagler addressed a special meeting of cloakmakers, where the approaching general strike in the trade was fully discussed.

The organizing activity of our Union in Toronto is under the supervision of vice-president Krizner of that city and of a special organizer assigned for the Canadian territory by the General Executive Board at its last meeting, which also authorized a strike in Canada during the coming spring season. Among local leaders who are aiding our organization there we wish to mention with gratitude Brother James Simpson, vice-president of the Canadian Labor Congress and Mr. J. L. Cohen, our Toronto attorney.

#### A Revival in Montreal

In Montreal, as you probably are aware, the Union has ceased to be a factor in the cloak trade in the past few years.

There were several causes responsible for this failure. Montreal contained even in former years an element of cloak-makers that served as poor material for a healthy union. Even in the years when trade unionism was at its height in the other markets in our industry, the Montreal organization used to furnish us with its special troubles, caused largely by a clique spirit in some shops that interfered with normal union activity. In addition, there has always existed in Montreal a group of union-baiters among the employers who have fought the Union tooth and nail and did everything in their power to corrupt the workers and to stamp out the organization in their shops. It stands to reason that such a field would be fertile soil for the Communists, and what the employers did not succeed in demoralizing, the Communists destroyed by their vicious propaganda. Small wonder that the Union was within the last half-dozen years all but wiped out in the local industry, and the cloakmakers' earnings and work conditions in Montreal have sunk to the lowest level.

What was left by the end of 1928 was a skeleton of a pressers' local, a small cutters' group, and a raincoat makers' local, which obtained a new charter from the International during the summer of 1928. The General Executive Board, nevertheless, has never lost sight of the fact that in order to organize the cloak industry in Canada it is vital to organize not only the Toronto market but Montreal as well.

Recently, however, with Communist activity having collapsed in all our markets, including Montreal, the International Office has received several requests from a group of loyal cloakmakers in that city, praying for help to reorganize the old locals and to bring back the Union into the Montreal market. Acting president Dubinsky, while visiting Toronto in September, went to Montreal and addressed a meeting of cloakmakers.

Brother Dubinsky brought back very encouraging tidings of an aroused union interest among the Montreal workers. There were about 300 cloakmakers at the meeting, and he was received with remarkable enthusiasm. There appears to be eagerness on the part of every worker to contribute something towards the rebuilding of the locals; the Montreal cloakmakers evidently have learned their lesson, and are hungry for a union now. Representatives of the Montreal

Trade Union Council and of the Canadian Labor Congress spoke at the meeting, too, and expressed a readiness to help.

The prospects for a union comeback in Montreal have been much improved, provided the cloakmakers themselves show unabated willingness to build up a union, not through outside aid but by their own toil and sacrifice. The International should encourage them in their efforts and also lend a helping hand when the proper hour is reached.

Among those who are aiding the Montreal cloakmakers to make a strong comeback, besides our own group of loyal unionists, we desire to mention with thanks Brothers Tom Moore and Foster of the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress, and our old friend and comrade, Labor alderman Joseph Shubert, for many years secretary of the old Montreal Cloakmakers' Joint Board.

#### SMALLER LOCALS OUTSIDE NEW YORK

We have several small locals in some of the minor markets, which for various reasons have either lost influence in the localities where they exist, or have never seemed to be able to amount to anything in the local trade.

In Baltimore, where we once had quite a local, and where there is a substantial cloak trade with several large shops, and a much larger dress, middy blouse and miscellaneous garment industry, there is barely an organization in existence now. The Baltimore local has cost the International a great deal of money, effort and trouble in the past half dozen years. We could not, however, keep up in Baltimore a local because the cloakmakers themselves did not seem to want one.

Last May, nevertheless, a loyal group of workers, which has been trying for some time past to revive the local union, got together finally and asked the General Office to send a speaker to a meeting. Vice-president Halpern was sent, and he reported that about two hundred cloakmakers attended the meeting, and they seem to be in earnest at last about rebuilding their union. It is characteristic that, as long as there was no talk in Baltimore of renewed union activity, the local Communists were soundly asleep. But the moment the Baltimore cloakmakers began to revive their union, the union-

wreckers emerged from their rat-holes and began to discourage the workers from joining the Union. The Baltimore cloakmakers, however, this time refused to have anything to do with them.

Another big meeting was held in Baltimore toward the end of August, at which vice-president Halpern again spoke. A number of those present took out union books and promised to become active. A committee of the revived local appealed to the International to help liberate them from the semi-slavery which prevails in their shops, where piece-work is the rule and the earnings are the lowest in years. If the Baltimore cloakmakers will continue to show real interest in a union and will prove that they are ready to make some sacrifices for its upbuilding, the International, we believe, will give them a helping hand to put the local trade on a more civilized basis.

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Out in Toledo, we have a small local, No. 67, which has been trying to make headway in the few cloak shops in that city.

Whatever success these cloakmakers are achieving in safeguarding their means of a decent livelihood, is due largely to the brotherly help they are receiving from our Cleveland Joint Board, which is treating the Toledo local as if it was a branch of its own organization. Cleveland, it must be stated, is deeply concerned with work conditions in Toledo because that market is a direct competitor of the larger Cleveland market and naturally has an effect on it.

The same may be said of the group of Cincinnati cloakmakers who were once organized in an active local, No. 63, which has now practically ceased to exist. The Cleveland Joint Board is interested in this small cloak market, and vice-president Kreindler and Bro. Abraham Katovsky from time to time visit Cincinnati, which they regard as a branch of their union, to help the local cloak group when the need arises.

It will be, however, necessary for the International to take up the problem of organizing the cloakmakers of Toledo and the cloakmakers and dressmakers of Cincinnati as independent organizations in view of the constantly growing competi-



tive importance of these small middlewestern centers of our industry. It was not possible for us to have paid much attention to Toledo, Cincinnati, or such a place like Kansas City during the past few years when all our resources were tied up in New York, but as the New York situation is clearing up, it will be the duty of the International to interest itself seriously in conditions in the Middle West cities.

### ON THE COAST

Our Local 65 in Los Angeles has gone through some stirring experiences since the last convention, out of which, we are glad to state, it has come out a stronger and healthier organization.

As the delegates might recall, the Boston convention refused to seat the delegate from the then Local 52, who was convicted of having been illegally chosen to represent the Los Angeles cloakmakers at a meeting drummed up by a few Communist officeholders in violation of union rules. It was also proved that the selfsame petty commissars have never missed an opportunity to abuse the leadership of the International and to blacken the name of our Union. For several months after the convention, these petty usurpers continued their "left" tactics, persecuting every union man who would not cower to them and filling the shops with their henchmen. Finally they stopped buying stamps from the General Office, and when formal charges were brought against them by a committee of loyal members of Local 52, they forestalled possible disciplinary action by the G. E. B. by openly splitting away from the I. L. G. W. U., and taking along with them about 75 workers of the 1,000 cloakmakers in the local trade.

As matters turned out nothing better could have happened as far as our Union in Los Angeles is concerned. Having got rid of this gang of flannel-mouthed charlatans, the cloakmakers at once applied to the International for a new union charter and reorganized themselves as Local 65. A local committee of old, tried veterans, headed by Bros. Pinkovsky, Steinberg, Mintz, Rubinstein and Plotkin, threw themselves into the task of recruiting the bulk of the cloakmakers into the re-

organized union and within a few weeks got the situation well in hand. The entire organized labor movement of Los Angeles like one person rallied to the support of our loyal men and women.

The local has since then been growing in membership and influence, and when the contract with the local manufacturers' association expired early in 1929, the latter renewed its collective pact with Local 65, ignoring the Communist dual clique. The association consists of 20 firms, which employ about 600 workers. During the cloak strike in New York last summer, the Los Angeles cloakmakers pledged \$3,000 toward the strike fund, of which \$1,500 was sent over in the first days of the strike, a sum which certainly shows that the Los Angeles cloakmakers possess an excellent sense of solidarity with their fellow workers in the I. L. G. W. U.

The cloak industry of Los Angeles is growing. While the Communists were in control of the old local they have done nothing to organize the new shops, except to cause impractical stoppages in some places which caused only trouble and misery without end to the workers. There is, however, a great field in that city for wide activity both in the cloak trade and in the large local dress trade. It is to be hoped that Local 65, freed of Communist tentacles, will now devote its energies to organizing these thousands of non-union workers. The International will come to their help, of this there can be little doubt, when the moment comes for giving help. The loyal cloakmakers of Los Angeles deserve cooperation from their fellow workers the country over.

Out in San Francisco, our Local 8, small as it is, has had its share of trouble from Communist mischief-makers during the last year.

There, too, a few local "revolutionists" aided by the Los Angeles clique attempted to capture the local for their "industrial" agency, or disrupt it. The union-wreckers did succeed, for a time, in creating confusion among the local workers, but not for long. Local 8 remained loyal to the International. Our loyal Los Angeles organization has helped the San Francisco local to get rid of the disrupters. Recently, Bro. Abraham Plotkin of Los Angeles, has spent some time in San Francisco in behalf of Local 8.

San Francisco has a cloak trade of moderate proportions, and a few hundred cloakmakers. Union control over the shops, however, has been limited owing to the fact that not all the local workers belonged to the Union. With the livening up of union activity everywhere, it may be expected that Local 8 will now succeed in enrolling the majority of local cloakmakers and will thereby put the local shops under uniform union work conditions.

### THE RAINCOAT MAKERS

Local 20, the Waterproof Garment Workers' Union of New York, twice renewed its collective agreement with the employers' association in their trade in the past year and a half.

In 1928, the manufacturers attempted to saddle upon the raincoat makers in the New York market piece-work, a 42-hour week, a ten per cent wage reduction, and several other blessings that would have thrown the union back a dozen years. They reckoned, however, without their host, forgetting for the while that they were dealing with a militant group of workers who would stand for no such nonsense. Local 20, in fact, ignored the counter-demands of the employers and voted, in June, 1928, to prepare for a strike. The result was that the employers' association backed down, withdrew all the demands and, in addition, returned to the raincoat makers the wage-cut of from 6 to 8 per cent which they succeeded in wresting from them in January, 1928. The old wage scale was officially restored. The agreement also included a stricter policy of enforcement of the provision against sending out work to outside non-union shops, imposing substantial money fines on violators.

#### Deserve to Win

The raincoat workers, of course, won their clash with the manufacturers without recourse to open fighting because they deserved to win. The employers knew that the raincoat makers were prepared for a strike if a fight were forced on them.

The renewal of the annual contract in August, 1929, was

also accompanied by strike preparations in view of the apparent intention of the employers to capitalize the demoralization which prevailed in the cloak trade prior to the cloak strike and even to recruit workers from the cloak trade in case of a strike. The smashing victory obtained by the cloakmakers and the clean-up campaign carried on by the Union after the conclusion of the strike, tended, however, to discourage even such militant spirits among the employers as were itching for a fight. The agreement was finally renewed without a change in any of the standard union provisions, retaining the forty-hour five-day week, time-and-a-half for overtime, etc.

In charge of the Union during this period were vice-president David Gingold, manager, Samuel Friedman, chairman, and Meyer Polinsky, secretary. The raincoat makers showed their full confidence in these officials by reelecting them with increased majorities in December, 1928.

Local 20 also carried on during this period a steady fight against all the sub-standard shops which have shown up in the trade, and has organized several of them. In October, 1928, the members of Local 20 taxed themselves \$20 per member to furnish the administration of the local with a substantial treasury for financing its organizing work. The tax was collected within one month.

#### Helping Unionize Other Markets

In addition to maintaining a strict control of union work conditions in the New York market and vicinity, Local 20, with praiseworthy farsightedness, has helped during the past year generously with men and money their fellow trade workers in Boston.

It was principally Local 20 that was responsible in 1927 for the reorganizing of the Boston Local No. 24 and for placing it on a solid footing in the local trade. The New York raincoat makers' organization has since kept in constant touch with the Boston local aiding it whenever help was necessary. Thus, when the Boston Local decided in September, 1928, to tackle the raincoat shops in Cambridge, Mass., a Boston suburb where a large number of waterproof shops are located, vice-president Gingold and chairman Friedman of Local 20 went over to Boston to assist the leaders



of Local 24 in that fight. The result of that strike was very gratifying. Local 24 emerged from it with a gain of 400 members and a raise in wages for all workers. The International and the Boston Joint Board helped ardently in this strike to put Local 24 in a strong position in the local waterproof industry.

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We mentioned elsewhere the organization of a raincoat makers' local, No. 102 in Montreal in November, 1928. Montreal had had a raincoat makers' union for many years, but in the general Communist demoralization that local, too, was destroyed and the union work conditions which prevailed in the local raincoat trade were affected. The raincoat makers were the first to come to life and to reorganize their forces in Montreal, and in the present union revival movement which is under way in Montreal, it is hoped, the raincoat makers will play an important part.

## THE NEW YORK CHILDREN'S DRESS TRADE

### Two Campaigns Add Strength

In the past year and a half, Local 91 has gone through two strike movements which have strengthened its influence in the children's dress trade and added to its members. It is, nevertheless, still a great deal removed from occupying a commanding position in the industry. There is still a very large number of children's dress shops which are not unionized, and the number of workers in this industry who are outside of union ranks runs into thousands.

The first movement to organize additional children's dress and infant wear shops during 1928 started in June, when a number of meetings with workers in unorganized shops was held and demands formulated that were later forwarded to a large number of non-union employers. At a general meeting, held on July 24, 1928, the organization committee reported a strong sentiment for unionism in a large number of non-union shops, especially among the younger groups of workers, who until now were not touched by union agitation.

After a few weeks of energetic preparation, the walkout in the non-union infant wear shops, making small sizes, was

ordered for August 8, 1928. The strike lasted about two weeks and resulted in the organization of fifteen non-union shops, which were settled on the basis of a three-dollar raise to all workers and a 42-hour week until August, 1929, when a 40-hour week would be established. Several union shops which walked out together with the non-union houses obtained raises for the workers and had their work-hours adjusted to conform with the above settlement.

Another drive against the non-union children's dress firms was launched by Local 91 in the fall of 1928, when an organizing movement was started in anticipation of the renewal of agreements in the organized portion of the trade next February. Local 91 has no collective agreement with the children's dress employers and is, therefore, obliged to deal with each firm individually. The organization decided to demand this time a wage raise of ten per cent, and notified all manufacturers to that effect. In the event of refusal, the employers were told, the local would call out the workers to enforce this demand. In connection with this demand, Local 91 has carried on for several weeks an energetic agitation in the Williamsburgh and Brownsville sections of Brooklyn with satisfactory results.

The result of this campaign was a wage increase in all the union shops ranging from five to ten per cent, and in the addition of a score of non-union firms in the Brooklyn districts. The members of Local 91, gratified with the outcome of this campaign, decided to tax themselves a day's wages to finance the Union's further efforts in unionizing the trade.

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The jurisdictional misunderstanding, which has for some time past existed between Local 91 and the cloak operators' organization with regard to the shop where infants' coats are manufactured, was straightened out finally after the charter had been restored to the reefermakers of New York and Local 17 assumed jurisdiction over all infant coat shops.

According to this understanding, cloaks and coats of all sizes are placed under the jurisdiction of the cloak operators' locals Nos. 2 and 17 respectively, while children's dresses and the garments identified as infants' wear, running in baby sizes, are placed under the control of Local 91.

### Bright Prospects Ahead

The good work accomplished by the active workers of Local 91, under the direction of its manager, vice-president Harry Greenberg, in extending union work-conditions and union influence to many hitherto non-union shops, important as it has been, has not, however, solved the bigger problem of unionizing the bulk of the non-union territory in this trade, which for years has resisted the introduction of union standards of work. It has been generally conceded for a long time that real success in this direction could be achieved in the course of a general movement in the entire dress industry, with which the unorganized part of the children's dress trade would be closely tied up.

It is with this object in view, that the G. E. B., when it served notice, in the letter forwarded by President Schlesinger in August, upon all dress firms in the New York market of the firm determination of the Union to introduce uniform conditions in all shops, that it included all firms in the children's dress and house dress trades in it. When the hour comes to enforce this demand, the Union will tackle in one great drive the non-union dress firms and the obstinate non-union element in the children's dress trade as well. The membership of Local 91 are now looking eagerly toward that day, and when it comes will take their place on the fighting lines ready to do their share.

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On December 1, 1928, Local 91 tendered a banquet to its manager, Brother Greenberg, in appreciation of his thirteen years of service as manager of this organization.

More than a hundred members of Local 91, including guests from the locals, attended the dinner. President Schlesinger, Secretary Baroff and vice-president Antonini, who represented the G. E. B. at the dinner, eulogized the activities of vice-president Greenberg on behalf of the children's dress-makers and stressed his general loyalty to the Union as a whole.

## THE TRIMMING AND NOVELTY TRADES

### Local 66 Makes Fine Comeback

The bonnaz embroidery and the tucking and hemstitching trades have, by the nature of their product, always been considered as an auxiliary industry to the two chief women's garment trades in our market. Their prosperity largely, therefore, depended on the demand for trimmings and novelty work in the cloak and dress trades during the season, fluctuating from year to year and adding to the state of uncertainty from which so many of our workers suffer in all our trades.

The trimming trades have not been prosperous in the last few years. The simplicity of styles in the cloak trade and the brevity of dresses has curtailed to a great extent the demand for embroidery and for other fancy trimming work. The slack seasons, especially in the embroidery trade, have been appallingly long and have brought misery and want to the workers. It is natural, therefore, that this state of affairs should have affected badly the condition of the unions in these trades and work conditions in the shops.

Despite these adverse conditions Local 66, the Bonnaz Embroiderers' organization, has been able, by constant organizing activity and through the unswerving loyalty of its active group of leaders, to fight off the aggression of the employers whenever the latter made an attempt to break down union conditions. The local also made headway in unionizing new shops and regaining old shops which have drifted away from union control during the past few years.

With the first appearance of work in the shops during fall season of 1928, Local 66 resumed organizing work in the trade. A number of non-union shops were taken down on strike and made to settle on union terms, and this drive for new shops and new members has created a lot of enthusiasm among the members, who showed their appreciation by paying up arrears and by enlisting in volunteer committees to help organize the non-union shops. Within five weeks forty shops were on strike, twenty-two of which settled after a short fight. The local has gained several hundred members.

The arrival of the slack season interfered for a time with organizing work, but in the spring of 1929, Local 66 resumed



the drive and in the course of a few weeks added another fifteen shops to its roll. But Local 66 was not fully satisfied with these gains. The leaders of this organization could never erase from their minds the fact that only three years ago Local 66 had a membership of nearly 2,000, and had contracts with 195 shops, including all the large shops in the industry.

#### 40-Hour Week Established

So, when the General Executive Board decided, immediately after the conclusion of the cloak strike last July, that the situation was ripe to strike at the non-union shops in both trimming trades, the bonnaz embroidery and tucking and pleating trades, and called out the workers on September 4, the response of the members of Local 66 was overwhelming. Production was so completely paralyzed in all shops that the employers capitulated within three days.

The chief gains as far as the embroidery workers were concerned were the immediate establishment of the 40-hour week, fixing of six legal holidays with pay, strict guarantees of the union shop clause, and the creation of the post of an impartial chairman in the two trimming trades to settle disputes and to aid in the weeding out of sweat shop conditions. Local 66 has also added about 25 of formerly unaffiliated shops to its list as a result of this strike.

Leon Hattab, as manager, and Nathan Reisel, as secretary, have led Local 66 during the strike. Acting president Dubinsky contributed greatly to the success of the last strike of Local 66, together with vice-president Halpern, who was in charge of the tuckers' and pleaters' organization.

#### Local 41 on Solid Footing

During this same period, Local 41, the other novelty and trimming organization, badly weakened by trade conditions and Communist disruption, was making an uphill fight to win back its position in the shops.

In 1924, the International, after a strong drive, put the novelty industry on a nearly one-hundred per cent basis, and Local 41 became a power in the shops, having obtained first-rate work conditions. It was this goal that the members of Local 41, after the local was reorganized and freed from

Communist domination in 1927, have been striving to achieve ever since. In September, 1928, after a protracted slump, Local 41 finally began to stir. Vice-president Halpern was put in charge of the organizing committee of the local, and a campaign was set on foot to prepare the shops for a general walkout. The association of employers in this trade, with which Local 41 had an agreement that was being violated by its members right and left, was warned by President Schlesinger that they would be held responsible if they continued such tactics. Several conferences were held with this association, which only sharpened the dispute, and a strike looked imminent.

The sudden return of slack conditions in the pleating shops brought the strike movement to a halt. It would, of course, have been impractical to proceed with a strike in shops that were half idle, and it became necessary to postpone activities for a more opportune hour.

#### Local 41 Wins Strike

This opportunity, for which the workers in the novelty and trimming shops have been waiting for long and dreary months, finally came, after the victory of the cloakmakers in July. The G. E. B. decided to capitalize the situation for a swift drive, and a strike agitation was set in motion under the direction of vice-president Halpern. A joint strike committee of Locals 41 and 66 was formed, and a number of large meetings were carried through. The employers' association was promptly notified that unless they concede to the establishment of uniform union conditions in all shops that would be binding on and enforced by their members, a strike would follow. A conference with this association proved of little avail, and the strike became inevitable.

The strike called out jointly with the bonnaz embroidery shops brought excellent results. Within one week, the International signed a collective agreement with the Pleaters' and Stitches' Manufacturers Association and with several other big shops in the novelty trade, making a total of more than 100 shops. The Union has won practically all its demands—a 42-hour week, with a provision that the 40-hour week be installed six months later—in January, 1930; a guaranteed wage of \$55 a week for tuckers and \$45 for pleaters, with substantial increases to helpers; \$30 for hemstitchers; equal

distribution of work in the shops; time and a half for overtime; six legal holidays with pay, and money securities guaranteeing agreement enforcement.

But most important of all, the novelty workers, for the first time in several years, have now a union, with a solid footing in the trade, that can protect them in the shops. They may now go ahead and unionize the rest of the trade and regain the position which they occupied in the field before the Communists succeeded in disrupting their organization. It is wholly up to the pleaters and tuckers now to complete this vital task, and the International will, no doubt, lend its support to them whenever the situation will call for it.

### NEW YORK LADIES' TAILORS

#### Local 38 Wins 40-Hours, Labor Bureau

The organization of the ladies' tailors and private dress-makers, which also includes the alteration tailors and the theatrical costume tailors, has gone through a period of normal growth and activity since the Boston convention.

The outstanding achievement in 1928 in Local 38 was the introduction of the 40-hour week in the trade, upon signing the agreement with the Couturiers' Association. The Association, it should be recorded, did not concede the shorter work-week without hectic negotiations which for a while threatened to develop into an open conflict. Local 38 demanded, besides the 40-hour week, a flat raise to all workers and the prohibition of the right of the employers to discharge workers during seasons. The Association countered with demands for free discharge, for a ten per cent reduction in wages, and for a fine of \$1,000 for failure on the part of the workers to return to work in the event of stoppages.

The agreement was signed on September 13, and was ratified the following day by the members of Local 38. The new contract granted the shorter week, except that it allows four hours overtime with time-and-a-half pay on Saturdays during the busy season. The right to discharge is allowed only for sufficient cause and is reviewable by an impartial chairman, an office which the new agreement creates. Later, the same agreement was signed with all the "independent" firms in the trade. Only in one important shop, Klugman & Sons, 42 West 38th Street, was the Union compelled to wage a hard battle to compel it to renew the agreement under the

new terms. To carry on the strike, which dragged out for long weeks, the members of Local 38 taxed themselves 5 per cent of all their weekly earnings in all the signed shops.

Among the new features of the new agreement was the introduction of a labor bureau. The contract stipulates that when an employer requires help, he must call for it at the office of the Union. No one is to obtain a job without a working card issued by Local 38. A committee of shop chairmen later worked out a set of rules to govern this bureau that would assure the workers in search of jobs that they would get their turn without favoritism or discrimination.

#### **Campaign to Interest Dressmakers Always On**

No sooner was the agreement signed than the Local resumed its regular organizing drive to awaken interest in the Union among the large number of private dressmakers employed in the fashionable shops in the midtown Fifth Avenue district.

Local 38 has since carried on this campaign without a let-up through the entire year. It was successful in attracting to this organizing activity not only a large committee of its own members but also the cooperation of the Women's Trade Union League, women officers of the Y. W. C. A., and a number of graduate students from Columbia who have aided in the distribution of leaflets in front of shops and even in holding shop meetings with newly interested workers. The local's special organizer, Miss Mary W. Hillyer, succeeded also in securing the endorsement of the Actors' Equity of the organizing work among the underpaid and overworked private dressmakers in the fashionable districts.

In recent months, owing, first, to the prospects of a very good season, and, second, to the stimulating effect of the cloak strike, the Ladies' Tailors' local has launched an intensified drive in the private dressmaking trade. Miss M. Chadnich was added to the organizing staff of the local. The General Executive Board has promised a committee of Local 38 its full cooperation, but the success of this drive, it is understood quite clearly, depends materially upon the members of the ladies' tailors' organization themselves. With the minimum friction inside the local, thanks to the practical elimination of the discord-provoking Communist group, the moment appears to be ripe for successful organizing work.



## THE WHITE GOODS WORKERS

The White Goods Workers' local in New York City has passed during this period a rather uneventful existence.

Practically, the local is in the same position today as it was on the eve of the last convention, in the spring of 1928. A few scattering shops had been gained, there has been a slight increase of membership at times to be followed by a small slump, but, on the whole, the organization of the underwear and negligee workers has made no appreciable progress. This situation is explained on the ground that the local itself, with its limited strength, could not have undertaken during this period a really big movement to organize the thousands of workers and the scores of big shops that remain outside, and the International Union was in no position, considering the tremendous problems which it had to confront in the bigger and more essential trades of our industry, to divert a sufficient amount of resources to wage such a fight for Local 62.

Another factor which has hampered the growth of Local 62, and this factor has affected nearly all our other trades, is the unceasing demoralizing activity of a harmful Communist element which has been doing all it could to obstruct normal, constructive work. In justice to the members of Local 62 it must be stated that the majority of them have not been misled by the disloyal work of the "lefts" and have exposed their underhand intrigues at every turn.

Last March, the White Goods Workers renewed, after negotiations lasting several weeks, their collective contract with the Cotton Garment Association and with the independent shops. The settlement wasn't reached before the employers had become convinced that the underwear workers were preparing for a strike and the membership was aroused to the menace of the situation and began to mobilize. During that period, Local 62 carried through quite a lively organizing activity and secured a number of new shops.

It is all too clear that the problem of organizing the bulk of the non-union white goods shops in the New York territory is a problem of the International as a whole, and it was with this purpose in view that the General Executive Board last August placed this question on its agenda and voted to in-

augurate a trade-wide campaign among the underwear and negligee workers in the immediate future.

The work conditions prevailing in the non-union shops in this trade are probably among the worst of any of the garment industries in New York. The workers are kept down under an iron discipline, the pay is low, and the general treatment accorded the workers is on par with their earnings. There is a strong undercurrent of resentment in the shops, but it is kept down because the workers are afraid to move. When the International is ready to take the initiative and start a big drive, we are confident, the response would be overwhelming, and the underwear trade could be placed in line with the best organized trades in our industry.

#### NEW YORK SUBURBAN LOCALS

Among these locals we include the locals formed several years ago by the International, largely with the aid of the Joint Board of New York, in Long Island, nearby New Jersey and Connecticut cities, and in Westchester County, N. Y.

These locals have performed in the past dozen years, since they came into being, a double duty. They have succeeded in obtaining for the local garment workers, cloak or dress workers, decent work conditions and a measure of recognition of their rights in the shop. But they also served as a discouraging factor to many an employer who was planning to run "out-of-town" in order to escape the control of the Union in the city. Every shop unionized in these suburban cities acted as a warning to such type of an employer, giving him notice that the Union would "get" him no matter where he went and would organize his shop eventually.

During the cloak strike of 1929, these locals have rendered splendid service keeping in touch with the Out-of-Town Committee of the General Strike Committee and posting it on every move of non-union employers in their respective towns. These locals actually were strike headquarters in every suburban city where cloaks were made.

In Long Island, about 275 girls were locked out from seven Ozone Park shops on December 3, 1928, after the girls refused to accept a change from week-work to piece-work

which the firms had planned to force upon them. This lock-out lasted over four weeks, and ended on January 5, 1929, when the employers signed a union agreement and called back all their workers. The girls celebrated this victory at a "victory dance" which was attended by all the former strikers, their families, and several representatives of the Union from New York, headed by vice-presidents Halperin and Antonini, who helped in this strike.

The three locals in Westchester County—the White Plains Cloakmakers' Union, No. 15, the Cloak and Dress Makers' Union, No. 36, Mount Vernon, and the Garment Workers' Union, No. 113, Mount Vernon, formed a joint board on September 15, 1928, after the members of these locals approved of the plan. The plan was decided on in order to coordinate the running of these three locals and to strengthen their position in general.

#### WORKING WITH THE GENERAL LABOR MOVEMENT

Notwithstanding the fact that during the past few years circumstances forced upon us a fight for self-defense which absorbed all our energies, we have, nevertheless, done our level best to fulfil our obligations as a part of the general labor movement.

We have already stated elsewhere in this report how generously the American Federation of Labor responded to our appeal for cooperation, and how readily the Executive Council, President Green and Vice-president Matthew Woll had come forth to assist our Union in the fight for preservation which we waged against the Communist union-wreckers as well as in the conflict with the employers last summer.

Twice during this period, our delegates at the 48th convention of the American Federation in New Orleans, La., and at its 49th convention in Toronto, Canada, introduced resolutions calling for the endorsement by the Federation of the current program of action of the I. L. G. W. U. and asking for the support of the organized Labor movement and invariably these conventions voted to pledge their aid to our International. At the New Orleans convention, October, 1928, our resolution was introduced by President Schlesinger and by Brothers Isidore Nagler, Manny Weiss and Abraham Klatov-

sky, and the backing of the A. F. of L. of the forthcoming strike in the cloak industry was expressed in a "resolve"— "to give the I. L. G. W. U. all cooperation and assistance to complete successfully the task of renewing these agreements with the best results for the workers and to help reinforce the position and prestige of the I. L. G. W. U. in the trades over which it has jurisdiction."

At the Toronto convention, last October, Delegate Nagler, who headed the delegation in the absence of President Schlesinger whose health would not permit him to make the journey, introduced a resolution thanking President Green and other officers of the Federation for the generous assistance which they rendered in the cloakmakers' strike in New York City in July, 1929. The resolution was enthusiastically carried. It read:

"WHEREAS, the Cloakmakers Union of the City of New York has recently concluded a highly successful strike, which has resulted in collective agreements with all associations of employers in the industry, under the terms of which the thirty thousand members of these unions have secured substantial improvements in their standards of work and life; and

"WHEREAS, the signal victory of the Cloakmakers' Union has inspired the organized workers in other branches of the women's wear industry to renewed enthusiasm and activity and has served to restore the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union to its former position of power and prestige; and

"WHEREAS, the successful outcome of the Cloakmakers' strike in New York was in a large measure due to the whole-hearted support and cooperation of the Executive Council, acting under the instructions of the convention of the American Federation of Labor and particularly to the personal efforts of President William Green, Vice-President Matthew Woll and Brother Edward McGrady;

"RESOLVED, that the Fiftieth Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor meeting in Toronto, Canada, expresses its appreciation to the Executive Council, President Green, Vice-President Woll and Brother McGrady for the loyal and efficient services in behalf of the New York cloakmakers and hereby instructs the Executive Council to support with all means as its command the campaign of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union to organize the workers in the women's wear industry throughout the United States and Canada and to secure for such workers humane and decent living conditions."

#### **Relief For Miners**

It was one of the first acts of the present General Executive Board, upon coming into office, to issue late in May, 1928,



an appeal to all affiliated locals on behalf of the then still striking soft coal miners of Pennsylvania and Ohio, in accordance with a decision adopted at Boston, to levy a voluntary tax of a dollar per head on all members for the relief of the miners.

"These heroic strikers," the appeal read, "deserve our wholehearted support. We must help them win their struggle. There is a pressing need for money, food and clothing. We appeal to every member to give as they never gave before. This assistance may mean the preservation of life itself to a great many of the miners and their dependents." Despite the fact that it was still many weeks before the season, a considerable sum was collected and sent to the miners' headquarters.

#### May Day Demonstration

Our unions all over the country, true to their traditions of working class solidarity, celebrated last May Day on a greater scale than ever before. In New York City, practically all our locals and the Joint Board joined with a number of other labor organizations and fraternal workmen's bodies in staging one of the greatest First of May demonstrations on Wednesday afternoon, May 1, filling Madison Square Garden from pit to roof, with thousands upon thousands turned away for lack of space. It is estimated that no less than 45,000 people came to the mammoth meeting. Jacob Panken, Abraham Cahan, Norman Thomas and Bro. David Dubinsky delivered the chief addresses.

Coming as it did at a moment when our entire organization in New York City was feverishly preparing for the fight in the cloak industry, it may not be an overstatement to say that the tremendous moral success of that meeting has been quite a valuable factor in strengthening the morale of our workers and in adding courage and inspiration to our labor movement as a whole.

#### U. H. T. 40th Anniversary

Our New York organizations took part in December, 1928, in the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the United Hebrew Trades, the central body of the Jewish trade unions in New York, with which nearly all our locals are affiliated.

The jubilee celebration took place at Carnegie Hall on December 22 at a great meeting and concert in which more than 80 unions participated. Messages were received from J. Ramsay McDonald, Leon Jouhaux, of France, Jacob Grassmann, of Germany, President William Green of the A. F. of L. Matthew Woll was the chief speaker in behalf of the American labor unions.

President Schlesinger sent a message to the meeting on behalf of the I. L. G. W. U. in which he expressed the hope that the United Hebrew Trades "will continue its highly useful career in the Jewish labor movement with the same devotion to the interests of our workers and with the same faith in our ultimate ideals."

#### **British Labor Delegates at Joint Board Meeting**

An event which left a deep impression among the delegates of our New York Joint Board last year, was the visit paid to its meeting of December 19, 1928, by the two British fraternal delegates to the New Orleans convention of the A. F. of L., Brothers James Marchbank, of the British Railwaymen, and E. Edwards, of the Northumberland Miners' Union. They were invited by President Schlesinger, after a speech of welcome, to express their views on the British labor situation.

Both delivered interesting talks on the economic and political situation in England, which were received with deep attention. The Joint Board voted to give thanks to the two British labor men for their "constructive, instructive and inspiring" speeches. Brother Marchbank reciprocated his and his colleague's expressions of gratitude by stating that "they wish nothing more than to hear of the prosperity of our movement. They will gladly carry these words of encouragement to their brethren across the sea."

#### **Aid To Palestine Pogrom Victims**

When in September, 1929, the tragic news of the Palestine massacres which left thousands of Jewish families without food or shelter and exposed to disease shocked the world, the General Executive Board voted to raise a substantial fund among our members for the victims of the unspeakable Arab outrages.

We forwarded at once a check of \$5,000 to the Central Palestine Relief Fund, and at the same time appealed to all our members to take part in shop collections which were being organized everywhere. The General Office also forwarded a letter to all our organizations outside of New York City to organize collections and to give generously of their funds to the unfortunate victims of bloody fanaticism in Palestine.

#### International Clothing Workers' Federation

Our affiliation with the International Clothing Workers' Federation, which we have aided in reorganizing in 1921 after it was destroyed during the war, continues as before. Through this Federation we are affiliated with every needle trades union the world over which subscribes to the basic trade union laws and tactics of the Labor movement.

The I. C. W. F. has kept in close touch with our International Union during the past year and a half, continually asking to be informed on the condition of our workers and expressing deep interest in the development of our struggles with the employers.

We have mentioned in another section of this report the fact that the German Clothing Workers' Union has cabled our cloakmakers in New York City during the strike of last summer a check for \$5,000. This tangible expression of fraternity exemplifies the spirit of solidarity which animates our fellow workers in Europe toward our organization. We hope we shall be able to reciprocate this brotherly act many times over should a necessity for it arise.

#### OUR PUBLICATIONS

The three weekly journals issued by the I. L. G. W. U.—Justice, Gerechtigkeits and Giustizia—have undergone the following changes since the last convention.

In the middle of July, 1928, the General Executive Board decided, in the interest of economy—it was our period of greatest financial stringency—to issue all the three publications every other week instead of weekly as heretofore. This continued for nearly a year, when the Jewish weekly, Gerechtigkeits, was put again on a weekly basis, though it was cut

down from twelve to eight pages, while Justice and Giustizia have continued to come out every other Friday. The change in the Jewish weekly was considered important in view of the then approaching cloakmaker general strike in New York.

Max D. Danish, who was associated for many years with our International Union, having been managing editor of Justice since 1920 and editor-in-chief of all our publications since the end of 1925, resigned in February, 1929. The General Executive Board engaged temporarily Brother A. Rosebury to edit the journals, and later, in April, asked the noted Jewish publicist, Dr. B. Hoffman, better known by his pen name "Tzivlon," to assume charge of Gerechtigkeits. Dr. Hoffman is not a newcomer in the cloakmakers' organization; he has been conversant with our affairs for many years past, and in 1912-1913 was editor of the old New York Joint Board weekly—The New Post.

#### Auditing Department

During the past period, the auditing department of the I. L. G. W. U. was under the supervision of our general auditor, Mr. Siemon L. Hamburger.

As in former years, the work of our auditors covered not only New York territory, but also our organizations in the East, Middle West and Canada.

In addition to the work of the General Office, our auditing department has rendered invaluable services during the recent cloak strike, and has creditably acquitted itself whenever called upon to make special investigations covering individual shops or groups of shops.

On the whole, we may say that our auditing work is being conducted ably and efficiently and meets the needs of our Union in a satisfactory manner.

#### MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

1st Quarterly Meeting	—	Philadelphia, June 25, 1928
2nd	"	" — New York City, Oct. 22, 1928
3rd	"	" — New York City, April 10, 1929
4th	"	" — New York City, Aug. 5, 1929
5th	"	" — New York City, Oct. 29, 1929



### CHARTERS OF LOCALS REVOKED

- Local No. 6 Embroidery Workers' Union, New York  
7 Embroidery Workers' Union, Toronto  
25 Corset & Brassiere Workers, Chicago  
51 Dress & Whitegoods Union, Newark, N. J.  
70 Ladies' Garment Workers, Portland, Ore.  
72 Embroidery Workers, Passaic, N. J.  
84 Ladies' Garment Workers, Woodhaven, L. I.  
94 Sample & Ladies' Tailors, Cleveland, O.  
111 Raincoat Makers, Cleveland, O.

### NEW LOCALS CHARTERED

- Local No. 17 Reefermakers, New York  
43 Operators' Union, Montreal.  
61 Pressers' Union, Montreal  
72 Dressmakers' Union, Toronto  
95 Raincoat Makers, Montreal  
138 Ladies' Garment Workers, Colchester, Conn.  
Local No. 65 (Reorganized Local No. 52), Los Angeles

### UNION HEALTH CENTER

The Union Health Center, with its medical and dental clinics, has carried on its activity since the last convention with encouraging results.

Its dental department, with a large staff of dentists and an extensive laboratory, continues to cater to an ever-increasing trade-union clientele. The medical clinic, which passed through a critical period in 1927-28, has shown a gratifying improvement in the past year, thanks, to a considerable extent, to the decision of its directors to invite all the unions in the city to affiliate with it, offering their members the same service in medicine and dentistry which it has for years given to members of the I. L. G. W. U. and their families. A drive for affiliation of outside unions has resulted in official endorsement of the Union Health Center by the Central Labor Union of New York and brought in a number of large and influential unions from many trades. Several of these unions are now represented on the directorate of the Center.

On the whole, the Health Center, which is still being directed by that veteran pioneer of workers' health service, Dr. Geo. M. Price, has made substantial progress last year, and is looking forward to steady advancement now that it has weathered its storm. Its dental clinic is under the supervision of Dr. Max Price.

## OUR EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Our members will be glad to know that even during the most trying period in the history of our organization our Educational Department continued to function. Our members always were proud of the fact that our International has been a pioneer in the field of workers' education. It should be a great satisfaction for them to learn that our International Union, while constantly fighting the battle for the improvement of their economic conditions, has not neglected this educational work even during the most difficult times.

### SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Sociability plays a very important part in human life. People who come together to spend a few pleasant hours in congenial surroundings develop a feeling of stronger fellowship and comradeship. Both young and old, men and women, respond to sociability and recreation. This is especially essential for young people.

With this in view our Educational Department has arranged every season a series of entertainments for young and mixed groups. These consist of musical programs and of short talks on social, economic or labor problems. These evenings usually wind up with dances at which refreshments are served.

A group of artists are cooperating with us in preparing special programs for these entertainments, which consist of dramatizations of certain aspects of the labor movement. Our own members participate in these programs too. We also arrange socials for organization purposes, to which workers are invited to bring along friends from unorganized shops. This contact of the unorganized with the organized has had a very stimulating effect.

### BOOKS

Our Educational Department continues to prepare lists of books, which we think are of value to our members and their families. We assist them in selecting books and in purchasing them at reduced costs.

The importance that our Educational Department is assuming in the estimation of our members, is best demon-

strated by the fact that many of them come there to consult us on the education of their children. They ask advice how best to develop the artistic talents of their children, whether musical, vocal or dancing. Of course, the Educational Department gladly assists them in this.

#### STRIKE ACTIVITIES

During strikes conducted by our International Union, our Educational Department has continued to cooperate with the speakers' and entertainment committees, assisting in the arrangement of the meetings and musical programs. All this helps to keep the strikers in good spirits and this, of course, we know, is essential in the conduct of a strike.

We have also planned and arranged lectures on labor problems for business meetings of our local unions, as it is our object to reach the mass of our people rather than a select few.

The work of our Educational Department has been enlarged in the past two years when it also assumed the management of the New York office of Unity House, taking charge of reservations and publicity.

Our office has been carrying on interesting and stimulating work in the Unity House, consisting of social, economic and literary features. Men prominent in their field have conducted these discussions, arranged outdoors, and this activity appears to be most appreciated by our guests.

The Department is under the supervision of Sister Fannia M. Cohn, who is the executive secretary.

#### LITERATURE

Our Educational Department has issued several pamphlets for general distribution. We are now in the process of preparing a few additional outlines. These are:

1. The Economics of the Women's Garment Industry.
2. The History of the I. L. G. W. U.
3. Organization Methods.

The Educational Committee, together with the executive secretary, plan for the activities. The work is administered by the Educational Department, and the committee consists

of Secretary-Treasurer Abraham Baroff, chairman, and vice-presidents Luigi Antonini, Molly Friedman, David Gingold, Julius Hochman and Elias Reisberg.

Our International continues actively to participate through the Educational Department in many activities of a social and educational character which serve the Labor movement.

#### RECREATION PLUS EDUCATION FOR WORKERS' CHILDREN

Psychologists nowadays, emphasize the importance of environment in the development of the child. The influence of the surroundings upon a child is immense. It shapes his character and personality, and leaves an impress on the intellect and ideology of the future men and women.

Realizing the importance of the atmosphere in which the children are brought up, our International actively participated in the formation of Pioneer Youth of America with a group of representatives of the labor movement, educators and parents. The same is true with regard to Manumit School.

Pioneer Youth conducts clubs for children from nine to eighteen and also conducts a summer camp, established in 1924. It is already the second year that its own camp in Rifton, New York, has been operating.

Sister Fannia M. Cohn, Executive Secretary of our Educational Department, represented our International at the following conferences:

1. The Women's Trade Union League Convention.
2. Pioneer Youth of America Conference.
3. Manumit School Annual Conference.
4. Prison Labor Conference.
5. Workers' Education Bureau Conference.
6. Trade Union Legislative Conference.
7. Women's Auxiliary Educational Conference.

#### UNITY HOUSE

Our Unity House at Forest Park, Pa., as you know, is owned and operated on a non-profit basis by our International Union since December, 1924. During the past two seasons, we have made many improvements on the property, one of which is the erection of a new social hall overlooking Unity



Lake. The seasons in our Unity House, as you know, have been further extended, at the request of our members, and it is now operated throughout the year. In addition to several cottages, we have also installed steam heat in a larger building, and this now makes it possible for us to accommodate a large number of guests during the fall and winter.

This year, a larger number of our members and their families than in the preceding four years spent their vacation in Unity House. With a few exceptions, all the family cottages were occupied by our members' families.

We are delighted at the number of our members' children now spending their vacations at Unity House, and they are most enthusiastic about our resort. More and more they are coming to appreciate the achievements of the Union to which their parents belong.

The social, recreational and educational activities at Unity House are steadily being improved. The entertainment programs are conducted by our New York educational office. A detailed description of the varied activities carried on in Unity House appears in the report of the General Executive Board to the 19th Convention of our International Union, held in May, 1928. A reprint of this copy can be obtained free.

As you are aware, the Educational Department has assumed since 1927, the New York City management of Unity House, including publicity and reservations. Since then, this work has been more efficiently managed and has brought good results.

Unity House is supervised by a committee consisting of the following vice-presidents: Jacob Halpern, Chairman; Harry Greenberg, Secretary; David Dubinsky, Elias Reisberg, Harry Wanger, Luigi Antonini, Molly Friedman, with Mr. George Oliver continuing as manager and Morris Novick as assistant manager.

Unity House is still the pride of our membership. But it is a place of rest, recreation and education not for our members and their families alone; members of other unions and friends of the labor movement in general are welcome there. We are gratified to learn that members of 22 international unions were among those who spent their vacation in Unity House last season.

#### UNITY HOUSE REUNION

The Unity House reunions are becoming a tradition with our members. These gatherings are most inspiring. They are attended by International and local officers as well as by large numbers of our members.

We have spared no effort or time to make our Unity House better from year to year. We are conscious of the fact that nothing encourages workers as much as a successful experiment. We believe that the workers do not suffer so much from lack of ability as from lack of confidence in their own ability efficiently to conduct their own affairs.

We have by this time convinced our members and friends that such an institution as Unity House can efficiently be operated on a non-profit basis, where the comfort of our guests is our only incentive to effort. It is, we believe, a substantial achievement, of which we may justly be proud.

#### IN MEMORY OF THE DEPARTED

Since the Boston convention, our movement has lost several outstanding friends. Death has removed from our own Union several comrades who, in their day, have helped to build and to defend it. To their memory we offer these lines of sorrow, fortified by the thought that they did not live in vain, that they gave their best to make the lot of their fellow happier and lighter.

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On June 19, 1928, Joseph Barondess, former active labor leader and early organizer of the cloakmakers in the United States, died in New York City at the age of 65, after a serious illness.

The passing of Barondess created profound sorrow in widest labor circles the country over. Barondess began his labor career in 1888, as an agitator among the Jewish sweatshop tailor workers of that day, when the streams of immigration were just beginning to pour into the United States. Later, Barondess became one of the popular figures of the New York Jewish community, taking part in all its widely-outbranched activities.

The stormiest part of Barondess' life was spent in the labor movement, when he was closely associated with the

cloakmakers' union. Between 1890 and 1894 Barondess was the most popular figure among the Jewish workers, who called him the "king of the cloakmakers." Later, the printers and the actors claimed him as their "father" and paid homage to him.

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Jehiel Leibowitz, one of the oldest and best known members of the dressmakers' organization of New York, widely known to other I. L. G. W. U. members, died in New York on July 3, 1928.

He was a devoted, intelligent trade unionist, clear-thinking and a sincere idealist. Never afraid to say whatever he had to say, Bro. Leibowitz gained for himself respect and admiration in the Union. His devotion to the organization was almost of a religious nature. Even on his sick bed, during months of a lingering, devouring illness, he kept continually in touch with his local and the Union as a whole with the fervor of a young zealot.

He never held a paid office in the Union, though he was time and again asked to take one, but for several terms was the chairman of Local 22 and served continually on its board.

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James McCauley, a former president of the I. L. G. W. U., and veteran member of the ~~cutters'~~ organization in New York City, died on January 18, 1929, in New York.

Bro. McCauley, who was 73 years old, was one of the founders of the first cutters' union, the Gotham Knife Cutters' Association. When the Gotham Association later joined the International Union, James McCauley became the president of the I. L. G. W. U. His membership in the cutters' union dated back to 1886.

Until two weeks before his death, Bro. McCauley continued working at the bench, when he was discharged by the Gershel firm where he was employed. Bro. David Dubinsky learned of his discharge and succeeded in reinstating him. Bro. McCauley, however, was so grieved by his dismissal that he took ill, and was taken to the hospital, where he died.

The funeral took place on January 21. Local 10 sent a special committee to the funeral, and President Schlesinger sent a telegram expressing the condolences of the whole

membership and praising the life-long faithful record of the departed veteran.

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B. Michalewitz, famous leader of the Jewish organized workers in Poland and Lithuania, died in Warsaw on October 30, 1928.

Michalewitz, who visited the United States on a lecture tour only two years ago, was one of the pioneers of Jewish trade unionism in Europe. He took a leading part in organizing the "Bund," and was a brilliant writer and lecturer.

Upon learning of his death, President Schlesinger forwarded the following cable to "Bund" headquarters in Warsaw:

"Death of Comrade Michalewitz is a great loss to the organized labor movement. I. L. G. W. U. mourns untimely death."

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Immediately upon learning of the passing of Louis Marshall, prominent American Jewish leader and humanitarian, who died on September 11 in Zurich, Switzerland, the International wired the following message of condolence to his family:

"The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union feels deeply the passing of Louis Marshall. A blow has been received not only by world Jewry but by those masses of American workers whom he has helped out of industrial darkness into the light of humane and decent working conditions. We are particularly saddened that his vision and love for his fellowmen will be missing in the counsels of our great industry where in the historic days of 1910 and 1915, Mr. Marshall's voice was raised on behalf of the dignity of labor. He vigorously fought the sweat shop and all its un-American manifestations. No other public figure contributed more to the stabilization of this industry than the deceased. The thousands of members of the I. L. G. W. U. deeply mourn his passing.

DAVID DUBINSKY, Acting President,

ABRAHAM BAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer."



## A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Aside from recommendations dealing with organizing activity and strike preparations in various centers of our industry, the General Executive Board has outlined and is herewith placing before the delegates of this convention several recommendations of a more general character, to which, it hopes, the delegates will give earnest consideration. In brief they are as follows:

1. We believe it is time that an agitation be started in such of our locals and subdivisions as still have a low rate of dues, for an increase in the weekly dues. Such an increase of dues is a vital necessity to the Union that cannot be sidestepped or dodged any longer. It is an open secret to every clear-thinking union member that our locals and joint boards cannot maintain themselves on their present dues. In the past the result has been that we were compelled to resort time and again to either local or general special taxes to be able to meet the needs of running our Union. This is neither practicable, nor is it to the liking of our membership. An educational campaign constructively conducted should convince the overwhelming majority of our members of the wisdom of an increase in dues. We heartily recommend it.

2. The International is still staggering under a burden of debts, for which interest must be paid, and which are becoming more and more oppressive. The Boston convention has endorsed a three-days' earnings assessment to liquidate this debt. But the events of the past year and a half have made the levy of such an assessment upon the membership impossible. The burden, however, is still here, and we must lift it.

We recommend, therefore, that this convention authorize the levy of a tax upon the whole membership of \$5.00 per year for the next two years, which is, in our opinion, a moderate assessment, to clear off some of the more distressing debts of the International. We ask that the incoming G. E. B. be instructed to carry out this levy.

3. We recommend that this convention authorize the incoming G. E. B. to dispose of union properties when they

see fit to do so in the interest of the Union and of the membership as a whole.

The International and the New York Joint Board own or have equity interest in some properties used as headquarters in New York City, which have lost their value to us owing to the shift of industrial centers or for equally important reasons. Such a grant of authority by this convention will give the G. E. B. a free hand, when a suitable occasion arises, to dispose advantageously of such property.

4. We recommend that our publications, heretofore being issued either weekly or every other week, be issued once a month in the form of a magazine.

Our publications cost a lot of money, far more than we can afford or, as we believe, far more than what they are worth to us from a practical point of view. We believe that as a trade union we are not in the publishing business primarily. Like every other American trade union we need an official organ in which our activity can be recorded and from which the rest of the trade union world might learn, when they are interested, of our affairs and problems. Our weeklies have been too costly a proposition to us, and if we can save tens of thousands of dollars annually through such a change, we can certainly put this money to better organizational advantage.

5. We recommend that this convention endorse the old age security campaign carried on throughout the country, the movement recently endorsed by the American Federation of Labor at the Toronto convention.

The problem of old age security is becoming more and more an urgent problem in American life, especially as far as wage earners are concerned. A number of state laws for the purpose of providing pensions for aged workers have been introduced in various State legislatures, and national legislation for old age security is pending in Congress. As part of the labor movement, and as an organization concerned with every side and angle of our members' lives, we should lend this movement our full support.

6. We recommend that this convention endorse the People's Tool Campaign carried on by the American Ort Organization for the declassed Jewish masses in Soviet Russia.

Our Union as a whole, and several of our locals individually, have given this movement their support. It is a movement for raising funds to supply tools and small machinery for thousands of unfortunate Jewish artisans who are disqualified by the Soviet laws from becoming factory workers and who are doomed to starvation unless they get tools for small home industry, which they have the neither the means nor the possibility of obtaining in that country. This tool campaign has already made big headway in the United States, and it is, in our opinion, a noble and humanitarian cause.

### CONCLUSION

The account of the activity of our Union for the past eighteen months in every center where women's garment making constitutes a sizeable industry, is ended. We are going ahead at a rapid, healthy pace. We are consolidating our gains and expanding into new territory. The disintegrating forces which played havoc with our Union for a half dozen years have lost their vicious hold and are no more a serious menace to our progress.

Our recovery, while yet not complete, has, nevertheless, been nothing short of miraculous. But in order to make it history-making in the fullest sense of the term, we must complete it. In the account of every market given to you, we have not failed to emphasize the part of the work yet to be done. In Chicago it is the dress industry, dozens of important shops that have to be fully organized; in Philadelphia the big factor likewise is the unorganized section of the dress trade strongly entrenched against the Union. In Boston, in Toronto, in Montreal, in Baltimore, in Los Angeles, even in Cleveland to some extent, there are still a great many hundreds and thousands of workers to be enrolled under the protective wing of our organization. Lastly, in New York great battles are still awaiting us in the dress industry, the children's dress trade, and in many of the miscellaneous trades.

Some of these campaigns have already been launched, while others are on the eve of a beginning. The General Executive Board, at its meeting in July, has worked out the network over which this nation-wide activity would spread. It will require resources of every kind—finances, human material, organizational ability and sound leadership.

Above all, however, it will require faith in the invincibility of our cause and confidence in our ability to achieve the objectives which we have set out to gain. We possess this confidence; we have this faith. We know we can win, because we have learned the great lesson that when we are united nothing can stop us. We shall get the money necessary for the campaigns; we shall find the men and women to lead the fight.

Fellow delegates! We look to you to lend strength to this buoyant hope which is rising high among the masses of our workers from one end of the land to the other. A year and a half ago the goal seemed so far, the perils of the journey so great, yet we came through, and our colors are now flying high in the main centers of our industry. A year and a half ago we were at the foot of a mountain looking up with fluttering hearts and wondering whether we could make the grade. Today, the doubts are gone. We shall reach the peak, we shall conquer all obstacles, with your undivided loyalty, with your wholehearted cooperation.

The future belongs to those who know how to fight, who are willing to pay the price of victory, and who know how to conserve the fruits of victory.

Fraternally submitted,

BENJAMIN SCHLESINGER, President,  
ABRAHAM BAROFF, General Secretary-Treasurer.

Luigi Antonini  
Max Amdur  
Morris Bialis  
Joseph Breslaw  
David Dubinsky  
Mollie Friedman  
Harry Greenberg

David Gingold  
Julius Hochman  
Jacob Halperin  
Charles Kreindler  
Phillip Kramer  
Abraham Kirzner  
Ellas Reisberg  
Harry Wander

Vice-presidents.



# FINANCIAL REPORT

## INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

*April 1, 1928 to October 31, 1929*

### TWENTIETH CONVENTION

DECEMBER 2, 1929

*Public Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio*

1340

**To the Delegates of the Twentieth Convention of the  
International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.**

**Greetings:**

I am sure that the report of the General Executive Board, which lies before you, will give you a clear and vivid picture of our Union's activity.

It will show you the great success which the International has achieved as a result of the last general strike of the cloakmakers in the city of New York.

Our Union which had been suffering from the incessant attacks of the traitors who masquerade as revolutionaries, was well-nigh ruined. Despair gnawed at our hearts, and pessimism cast its dark shadow upon all hope and faith in the possibility of placing our Union again on a sound basis.

The last general strike of the cloakmakers, directed by the practical and devoted leadership of our organization, has rehabilitated our Union in the cloak industry and made of it an organization which is capable of safeguarding the interests of the members.

Moreover, the last strike has restored the morale of the cloakmakers, inspired them with confidence in their own strength, revived their love for their Union, and imbued them with a fighting spirit and the determination to stand up for their rights and to protect their interests.

I think, however, that it is my duty as Secretary-Treasurer of the International to call your attention, fellow delegates, to the precarious financial condition of our Union.

We must bear in mind that the task of consolidating our International, of reassembling under the banner of our Union all the workers who are employed in the ladies' garment industry, is an enormously difficult undertaking. There is need of able and devoted leaders to conduct campaigns of organization; there is need of an idealistic rank and file; but above all, there is need of funds with which to finance all the battles we shall have to wage in the various trades and in various cities.

Every well-planned organization campaign entails considerable expense and every general strike requires large sums of money in order to keep the workers from starvation and want, and only with sufficient financial means is it possible to carry strikes to a victorious issue.

Those who have been active in our Union during the last few years are familiar with the fact that following the disastrous cloak strike of 1926 which the Communists launched in New York they squandered over three and a half million dollars out of the Union's funds; and when the International assumed charge of the strike and of the Joint Board, we were confronted with debts amounting to a million and a half dollars. The Union was bleeding and there was not a cent in the treasuries of all the locals of the New York Joint Board with which to carry on the work. It was only thanks to the boundless devotion and herculean efforts of the leadership of our Union that the International was not driven into bankruptcy.

During the past year we did everything humanly possible to meet our creditors and to make small payments on account; but the activity of the Union is being hampered, and it is becoming almost impossible to carry on unless the Union is rid of its pressing debts.

Our debts are like a millstone around our neck and make it impossible to begin organization campaigns which are so essential if we are to rebuild our Union, if we are to make whole again what the charlatans of the labor movement have so wantonly destroyed.

From the financial report you will see that our International owes the sum of over a million dollars. The interest charges on some of those debts costs us about \$40,000 a year, an amount large enough to make it possible to conduct extensive organization campaigns successfully in our industry.

You will also note that on our Balance Sheet we have the following assets:

Accounts Receivable (Joint Board and Locals).....	\$343,019.19
Loans Receivable (Joint Board and Locals).....	271,521.28
Loans Receivable (Joint Board N. Y. for Reorganization)...	263,341.79
	<hr/>
amounting to .....	\$877,882.26

If these assets could be easily realized, it would relieve our financial condition tremendously, and the burden of our indebtedness would not be such a great problem for us to solve.

However, the greatest portion of these accounts and loans receivable are due from the New York Joint Board and its Locals as a result of the Communist leadership and that tragic general strike of 1926 and the subsequent reorganization.

In view of the above, it is problematical as to how soon the New York Joint Board and its Locals will be in a position to liquidate their accounts and loans to the International.

Therefore, you can readily see that due to the problematical collections of the accounts and loans receivable due us, we cannot depend upon the collections of these assets to eliminate the terrible debts which are choking us. These obligations must be met so that the Union may be freed from the constant fear of being forced into bankruptcy by its creditors.

A special fund must be created which shall enable your leaders to pay off annually part of the debts until all our debts have been liquidated.

You, delegates of this Convention surely know that this debt was not incurred by us, that it is a bequest from the treacherous Communist leadership. It is your duty to the Union, it is the duty of the membership to preserve the honor of the Union and to make every effort to make it possible for the Union to function properly, and to conduct an intensive campaign to strengthen the organization, to extend its influence, and to rally to its banner all workers employed in the ladies' garment industry.

The recommendation of the General Executive Board providing for an annual assessment of five dollars is, in my opinion, anything but burdensome, because in view of the enormous amount we owe it will take six or more years before these debts can be paid in full. And believing that you, fellow delegates, realize the impossible position in which we find ourselves, I appeal to you not only to vote in favor of this recommendation, but to bring the real situation to the attention of the rank and file, and to impress upon them the vital necessity of making every effort to relieve the Union of these burdens so that the International and the leadership of our organization may be able to continue the efforts to place our Union again on its former high plane, to safeguard the interests of the membership, and to restore the International to the place of honor it formerly occupied. It lies within your power to make our organization once more the pride not only of our membership, but of the whole American labor movement.

4  
Fraternally yours,

ABRAHAM BAROFF,  
General Secretary-Treasurer.



# BALANCE SHEET

I. L. C. W. U.

October 31, 1929

## Assets

Cash in Banks .....	*\$89,278.43
Investments .....	31,956.60
Accounts Receivable—(Joint Boards and Locals) ..	343,019.19
Loans Receivable—(Joint Boards and Locals)...	271,521.28
Loans Receivable—(Ladies' Garment Workers Center, Inc.).....	155,430.67
Loans Receivable—(Joint Board N. Y. for Re-organization) .....	263,341.79
Revolving Funds.....	285.00
Sanitorium Assets.....	13,157.50
Furniture and Fixtures.....	15,752.72
Supplies (Estimated).....	5,000.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS .....</b>	<b>\$1,188,743.18</b>

## Liabilities & Surplus

Accounts Payable—(Current Accounts).....	42,594.72
Loans Payable—International Joint Boards, International Locals, Labor Organizations and Institutions .....	413,092.50
Notes Payable—Banks .....	245,500.00
Notes Payable—Labor Organizations.....	145,000.00
Notes Payable—Current Accounts.....	11,725.00
International Ladies' Garment Workers Union —Bonds .....	128,633.20
Exchanges .....	2,739.15
Sanitorium Fund .....	14,310.92
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND.....</b>	<b>1,003,595.49</b>
<b>Surplus .....</b>	<b>185,147.69</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS.....</b>	<b>\$1,188,743.18</b>

\*The Cash in Banks has been reduced by the disbursements made for the month of November. Among these disbursements are included the following payments on account of the above stated liabilities:

Notes Payable—Banks.....	\$43,500.00
Notes Payable—Current Accounts.....	1,500.00
Loans Payable.....	2,200.00
Accounts Payable.....	2,100.00
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>\$49,300.00</b>

This balance sheet is subject to the liabilities (Schedule A) assumed by the International collectively with the N. Y. Joint Board and Locals.

### Schedule A

At, during and after the Reorganization of the New York Joint Board, the International together with the reorganized New York Joint Board and locals, assumed collectively the liability shown below. These debts had certain collateral on deposit, which was applied as shown below:—

#### AMALGAMATED BANK

##### Liability

Balance due to Bank April 1, 1928.....	171,691.34
348 shares of I. U. B. stock estimated on statement of March 31, 1928, at.....	96,570.00
Shares Sold—Amount applied to principal (see schedule) .....	91,261.26      5,308.74
	<hr/>
	177,000.08
Payments made by International on account of princi- pal .....	33,909.85
	<hr/>
Liability October 31, 1929.....	143,090.23
	<hr/>

#### SCHEDULE OF SALE OF STOCK

348 shares of I. U. B. Stock—Sold .....	96,688.14
	<hr/>
Proceeds applied as follows:	
Payments on principal .....	91,261.26
Payments for interest .....	5,426.88
	<hr/>
Total .....	96,688.14
	<hr/>

# **INTERNATIONAL UNION BANK**

## **Liability**

Balance due to Bank April 1, 1928.....		\$179,000.00
Note of Old Local 22 .....		20,000.00
50 shares of I. U. B. Stock estimated on statement of March 31, 1928 at .....	\$15,000.00	
Shares ..Sold—Amount applied to principal—(See schedule) .....	14,000.00	1,000.00
		<hr/>
		\$200,000.00
<b>Payments applied:</b>		
Proceeds from sale of building—67-69 Lexington Av..	14,428.48	
Payments made by International on a/c principal....	8,204.28	
		<hr/>
Total payments .....		22,632.76
		<hr/>
Liability October 31, 1929 .....		177,367.24
		<hr/>

## **SCHEDULE OF SALE OF STOCK**

50 shares of I. U. B. Stock—sold.....		25,477.15
		<hr/>
<b>Proceeds applied as follows:</b>		
Payment on principal .....	14,000.00	
Payment for interest .....	4,000.00	
Taxes 130 E. 25th St. & 67 Lexington Av.....	4,727.15	
Legal fees .....	2,750.00	
		<hr/>
Total .....		25,477.15
		<hr/>

## **Securities Deposited with the Old Joint Board by Employers**

Counsel advises that this is not a part of the International, The General Executive Board, however, feels that this liability should be satisfied in full as a matter of policy and on ground of moral obligation.

Estimated .....	600,000.00
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# STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

For the Period—April 1, 1928 to October 31, 1929

19 Months

## Receipts

Dues per Capita .....	292,450.05
1925 Assessment.....	1,429.75
Initiation Tax.....	6,071.00
Supplies .....	1,462.94
Surety Bond Premium.....	205.00
Publication Dept. Income: Advertising...	3,188.07

## Interest:

Check Accounts .....	126.88
Savings Accounts.....	456.12
Investments .....	1,875.00

TOTAL INTEREST RECEIVED..... 2,458.00

Miscellaneous Income ..... 5,087.77

Contributions by Locals, Joint Boards  
and Labor Organizations for Joint  
Board N. Y. 1929 strike..... 52,107.00

## Exchange Items:

From Locals on a/c of Amalgamated Bank	
Loan .....	4,666.94
Collections for Palestine Fund .....	5,654.50

TOTAL EXCHANGE ITEMS..... 10,321.44

## Loans and Advances:

Loans Receivable — Returned by Joint Board .....	6,064.65
Loans from Banks—Joint Board & Locals.....	409,950.00
Advanced Revolving Funds for Expenses— Returned .....	105.00

TOTAL LOANS AND ADVANCES..... 416,119.65

International Ladies Garment Workers  
Union—Bonds ..... 128,633.20

TOTAL RECEIPTS ..... 919,533.87



# Disbursements

## Administrative Expenses:

### Salaries—Officers:

Salary—President—Benj. Schlesinger from May 15, 1928 to Oct. 31, 1929 on a/c .....	4,550.00
Salary—President—Morris Sigman.....	3,400.00
Salary—Secretary-Treasurer .....	7,425.00

TOTAL SALARIES OF OFFICERS..... 15,375.00

### Office:

General Office Salaries: Bookkeeper— Stenographers and clerical help.....	10,198.42
Auditing Department .....	11,062.04
Record Department .....	437.85
Educational Department—Salaries and Expenses .....	4,961.00

### Publication Department:

Printing and mailing—Justice, Ger- echtigkeit Giustizia and miscel. ....	46,944.11
Salaries of Editors and Contributors....	16,852.35
Mailing Department—Salaries and Exp. 5,227.51	69,023.97

### Office Maintenance:

Rent .....	28,500.00
Printing .....	5,198.00
Stationery and Supplies.....	659.88
Telephones and Telegrams.....	3,900.79
Postage .....	603.72
Water—Towels—Ice .....	544.40
Insurance .....	1,225.24
Building Expense and Repairs.....	1,709.30
Miscellaneous Expenses .....	1,068.87

43,610.20

TOTAL OFFICE DISBURSEMENTS ..... 139,293.48

### General Executive Board Meetings and G. E. B. standing and special com- mittees .....

5,331.66

### Per Capita to Organizations

A. F. of L.....	8,516.01
Dues & Per Capita to other Organizations	1,116.00

Total Per Capita to Organizations.... 9,632.01

### Convention Expenses:

International Convention (1928).....	25,634.71
International Convention (1929).....	82.40
A. F. of L. Convention .....	921.93

TOTAL CONVENTION EXPENSES..... 26,639.04

TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.. 196,271.19

<b>Organizing Expenses:</b>	
Salaries—General Organizers & Managers	20,912.94
Organizers R. R. Fare & Expenses (sent to assist organization campaigns and strikes for existing Locals) .....	10,086.28
<b>Traveling Expenses—</b>	
President (M. Sigman) .....	1,713.27
<b>Traveling Expenses—</b>	
President (B. Schlesinger) .....	263.22
Traveling Expenses—Acting President...	751.76
Traveling & Committee Expenses—Secretary Treasurer .....	1,520.64
Eastern Out of Town Dept. Salaries ....	26,147.60
Eastern Out of Town Dep: Expenses....	23,323.71
Includes Strike Benefits & Relief. Strike Expense, Travelling, etc.)	
Western Dept.—Salaries & Expenses.....	4,835.64
Canadian Organizing Salaries & Expenses	1,033.85
Legal Fees .....	7,998.50
Advertisements .....	496.20
Publicity .....	1,930.80
Donations to Locals .....	7,400.00
Donations to members .....	5,441.20
Special Committee—Local 17 .....	2,513.00
Strike Expenses .....	6,808.95
<b>Total Organizing Expenses .....</b>	<b>123,177.56</b>
Donations to Organizations.....	1,332.25
<b>Other Expenses:</b>	
Interest and Discount on Notes.....	33,793.68
Interest on I. L. G. W. U. Bonds .....	708.75
Surety Bond Premiums .....	390.40
Painting for Auditorium—3 West 16th St.	135.00
<b>Total Other Expenses .....</b>	<b>35,027.83</b>
To Joint Board N. Y. for 1929 Strike .....	105,000.00
<b>Exchange Items:</b>	
Sanatorium Fund—Disbursements .....	171.16
Exchange .....	1,321.00
Palestine Fund .....	5,000.00
<b>Total Exchange Items .....</b>	<b>6,492.16</b>
<b>Loans &amp; Advances:</b>	
Loans Receivable—Given to N. Y. Joint Board .....	111,154.67
Loans Receivable—Given to Locals, etc.	17,152.28
Loans Returned to Banks, Joint Board and Locals .....	159,302.27
Advanced Revolving Funds for Expenses—Given .....	390.00
<b>Total Loans and Advances .....</b>	<b>287,999.22</b>

Investments .....	9,341.60
I. U. Bank—Payments made to reduce principal of loans (Schedule A) .....	8,204.28
I. U. Bank—Payments made to reduce principal of loan (advanced by Local 48 previous period) .....	28,000.00
Amalgamated Bank—Payments made to reduce principal of loans (Schedule A) .....	33,909.85
<b>Total Disbursements .....</b>	<b>834,761.94</b>

#### Summary

Balance April 1, 1928 .....	4,506.50
Total Receipts .....	919,533.87
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>924,040.37</b>
<b>Total Disbursements .....</b>	<b>834,761.94</b>
<b>Balance October 31, 1929 .....</b>	<b>89,278.43</b>

### SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FOR JOINT BOARD, NEW YORK, 1929 STRIKE

Chicago Joint Board .....	\$12,775.00
Cleveland Joint Board .....	5,000.00
Philadelphia Joint Board .....	5,000.00
Los Angeles Relief Conference .....	1,500.00
Toronto Relief Conference .....	800.00
Montreal Joint Board .....	355.00
St. Louis Joint Board .....	600.00
Local 38 New York .....	3,000.00
Local 46 Boston .....	200.00
Local 28 Seattle .....	50.00
Local 8 San Francisco .....	52.00
Amalgamated Clothing Workers .....	10,000.00
Workmen's Circle .....	5,000.00
Deutscher Bekleidungs Arbeiter Verband—Berlin ....	5,000.00
Histradruth—Berlin .....	200.00
Bakers Union—Local 500, N. Y. ....	1,000.00
Hebrew Actors Union .....	500.00
Pacifi Zion .....	1,000.00
Ladies' Auxiliary Branch 63 .....	75.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$52,107.00</b>

# STATEMENT OF DUES STAMPS PURCHASED BY LOCALS AND JOINT BOARDS

April 1, 1928 to October 31, 1929

	Number of Dues Stamps	Total Amount	Amount Paid	Balance Due
2—Cloak & Suit Operators, N. Y. C.....	230,210	\$38,431.50	\$38,431.50	.....
3—Sample Makers, Cloak & Suit Tailors, N. Y. C.....	22,161	3,327.15	3,327.15	.....
4—Cloakmakers' Union, Baltimore, Md.....	700	105.00	105.00	.....
6—Embroidery Workers, N. Y. C.....	4,000	600.00	150.00	450.00
8—Ladies' Garment Workers, San Fran- cisco, Cal.....	3,800	570.00	435.00	135.00
9—Cloak & Suit Finishers, N. Y. C.....	169,805	25,470.90	25,355.25	115.65
10—Amalgamated Garment Cutters, N. Y. C.	142,033	21,304.95	21,004.95	300.00
17—Reefer Makers' Union, N. Y. C.....	25,543	3,831.45	3,831.45	.....
20—Waterproof Garment Workers, N. Y. C.	50,000	8,400.00	8,400.00	.....
21—Cloakmakers, Newark, N. J.....	2,324	348.60	348.60	.....
22—Dressmakers, N. Y. C.....	144,052	21,607.80	21,607.80	.....
23—Skirtmakers, N. Y. C.....	23,400	3,519.00	3,519.00	.....
24—Waterproof Garment Workers, Boston, Mass. ....	5,829	874.35	649.35	225.00
28—Ladies' Tailors, Seattle, Wash.....	600	90.00	90.00	.....
35—Cloak & Dress Pressers' Union, N. Y. C.	178,764	26,814.60	25,650.90	1,154.70
38—Ladies' Tailors, Theatrical Costumers, N. Y. C.....	76,500	11,475.00	11,475.00	.....
41—Tuckers, Hemstitchers, Pleaters & Nov- elty Workers, N. Y. C.....	16,000	2,400.00	1,350.00	1,050.00
48—Italian Cloakmakers, N. Y. C.....	205,716	30,857.40	30,407.40	450.00
50—Waistmakers, Phila. Pa.....	32,400	4,800.00	3,000.00	1,200.00
52 & 65—Ladies' Garment Workers, Los An- geles, Calif.....	11,500	1,725.00	1,500.00	225.00
62—White Goods Workers, N. Y. C.....	63,199	9,480.00	7,930.00	1,350.00
64—Buttonhole Makers, N. Y. C.....	300	45.00	45.00	.....
66—Bonnas Embroidery Workers, N. Y. C.	19,000	2,850.00	2,400.00	450.00
67—Cloakmakers, Toledo, Ohio.....	500	75.00	75.00	.....
75—Cloak, Skirt & Dressmakers, Worces- ter, Mass.....	2,400	300.00	300.00	.....
82—Examiners & Begraders, N. Y. C.....	6,425	963.75	963.75	.....
89—Italian Waist & Dressmakers, N. Y. C.	75,712	11,350.80	8,649.75	2,707.05
91—Children's Dress, Bathrobe & House- dressmakers, N. Y. C.....	57,000	8,550.00	6,300.00	2,250.00
95—Raincoat Makers, Montreal, Canada ..	4,000	600.00	600.00	.....
Stamps purchased collectively for Locals:				
Locals 57, 77, 79, 84, 107.....	12,000	1,800.00	600.00	1,200.00
Locals 15, 34, 113.....	5,000	750.00	450.00	300.00
Locals 51, 58, 72, 85, 87, 88, 134, 136, 140, 143.....	8,064	1,209.60	1,209.60	.....
Joint Board, N. Y. City.....	6,825	1,023.75	273.75	750.00
Joint Board, Boston, Mass.....	48,762	7,314.30	6,714.30	600.00
Joint Board, Chicago, Ill.....	142,333	21,350.00	21,350.00	.....
Joint Board, Cleveland, Ohio.....	55,000	8,250.00	8,250.00	.....
Joint Board, Montreal, Canada.....	3,000	450.00	450.00	.....
Joint Board, Philadelphia, Pa.....	44,000	6,600.00	4,500.00	2,100.00
Joint Board, St. Louis, Mo.....	4,400	660.00	660.00	.....
Joint Board, Toronto, Canada.....	15,650	2,347.50	2,347.50	.....
	1,050,988	\$292,648.40	\$275,436.00	\$17,212.40



### STATEMENT BY FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee has looked over all the vouchers for the period April 1, 1928 to October 31, 1929. We find that all vouchers O.K'd by Secretary Baroff are legitimate and authorized expenses.

SALVATORE NINFO, Chairman  
HARRY GREENBERG, Secretary  
HARRY WANDER  
LUIGI ANTONINI  
DAVID DUBINSKY

I hereby certify that the cash in banks on October 31, 1929, amounting to Eighty-nine Thousand, Two Hundred and Seventy-eight Dollars and Forty-three cents (\$89,278.43) as per bank reconciliations, is the correct balance of cash in banks.

MORRIS BERGER,  
Certified Public Accountant,  
November 25, 1929.

The attached reports are rendered after a thorough and careful examination of all books and records of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. The statements herein appended are the true state of affairs of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union to the best of my knowledge.

Respectfully submitted,  
Slemon L. Hamburger, General Auditor

## Appendix

NOTE: Through error this MANIFESTO was not incorporated in the original REPORT of the GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD.

### Manifesto of the General Executive Board to the Cloakmakers of New York

June 10, 1929

Brothers and Sisters:

The negotiations with the employers have been broken off.

The bosses declared that our Union is at the present moment too weak for them to have to reckon with it.

Not only have they rejected our demands and proposed modifications of the previous contract, but they are attempting to introduce piece-work and longer hours in our industry.

This must never be permitted to happen.

The Union is, therefore, mobilizing all its forces for the general strike in order to put an end to the demoralization of the trade and to the sufferings of tens of thousands of people who are dependent for their livelihood upon our industry.

We need not tell you what a strike in the cloak industry means and what great efforts it requires to carry it through to a victorious end. You know yourselves what that means. You have fought battles aplenty and have had sufficient experience in industrial warfare. You know that not only are large forces necessary to win a strike, but there is also and above all imperative need of united forces. The cloakmakers must, therefore, go out on strike united and with closed ranks, if they would assure themselves of victory.

And the solidarity of the cloakmakers will be no less essential when the strike has been won. The gains of the Union will be absolutely worthless unless the Union possesses the strength to safeguard and defend them. A strong union is the only effective protection of the workers. The cloakmakers must now strengthen their Union and make it as fit for combat and as effective as it used to be.

We, therefore, urge upon all cloakmakers the need of unity, of the greatest and strongest solidarity, which will assure their victory in the great struggle before them and which will render their life better, easier and more secure. We call for solidarity in the struggle with the bosses. Each one may have his own views and convictions, but all cloakmakers must be united in battle, otherwise victory is impossible.

In the Cloakmakers' Union and in all the other unions belonging to the International there is room for different views, tendencies and convictions. But this freedom of opinion and conviction which ought to exist in our unions should be utilized to strengthen the solidarity of our unions in battle and to increase their fitness and readiness for combat. Unfortunately, this freedom of opinion within the Cloakmakers' Union has lately been employed to weaken the Union and to destroy its unity. This must not be permitted to continue. The cloakmakers have dearly paid for it.

We wish, at this most grave moment in the fortunes of the cloakmakers and of their Union, when unity in the ranks is so urgently needed, to appeal once more to every cloakmaker who cherishes the interests of the cloak trade upon which he and other cloakmakers are dependent for their own livelihood and those of their families, to help build up again a big and strong Cloakmakers' Union, one that shall be able to embark with

the utmost confidence upon the struggle confronting it, and with the utmost assurance await the victory wished for.

2 And with this object of creating as much solidarity as possible in the ranks of the Union in the present critical moment, the General Executive Board has once again called upon all local unions in the cloak and dress industry to place no obstacles in the path of all former union members who want to reenter the ranks of the Union. Everyone who wishes to rejoin the Union should be given a brotherly welcome and admitted as a full-fledged, equal member with all the rights, privileges and duties that go with membership in the Union, and without any discrimination on the score of political opinions and convictions. At the same time the local unions should bear in mind the present trying situation in the cloak industry and place no financial difficulties in the way of those who may desire to come back to the fold in the course of the next three weeks.

The moment the strike is over and the convention of the International has taken place, let the locals, etc., proceed as soon as possible to hold elections for paid and voluntary officers, in order to give an opportunity to all those who shall have rejoined the Union to participate in the administration of the Union, to elect and be elected with all the rights and obligations that go with membership in the Union. At the same time every effort should be made to insure honest and impartial elections.

Once the strike is over the General Executive Board, on its part, will summon a convention at the earliest possible moment, in the elections for which newly returned members will be able to take part on a basis of absolute equality with the old members.

All reforms and resolutions in regard to representation at conventions, the election of the highest officers of the International, the expulsion of members and locals, as well as all other changes in the constitution of the International which have been proposed by some of our local unions, are questions which can be settled only at the convention, and we are confident that they will be taken up by the convention and settled to the satisfaction of the membership at large, and for the benefit and welfare of our Union.

Brothers and Sisters, we hope and trust that our appeal to you for unity in the ranks of the cloakmakers, our appeal to you to strengthen the Cloakmakers' Union, our call for a united front against the bosses in the struggle to make the life of the workers in the cloak industry better, easier, finer and more secure, will evoke the warmest and most sincere response on your part, and so we feel certain that you will triumph and enjoy the fruits of your victory.

Close ranks and with united forces advance to battle, a battle whose aim is to build up a big and powerful union for the protection and welfare of the cloakmakers.

#### GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

. . .

#### OMISSION

Owing to error the name of

SALVATORE NINFO

First Vice-President

was omitted in the composition of the last page in the original

REPORT OF THE GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

# REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS TWENTIETH BIENNIAL CONVENTION of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union 1929



## First Day—Monday Morning Session

Cleveland, Ohio, December 2, 1929

The Twentieth Biennial Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union was called to order at 10:46 a. m. in the Public Auditorium by Brother Charles Kreindler, Vice-President of the I. L. G. W. U. and Chairman of the Arrangements Committee.

In pursuance of the Manifesto of December 12, 1928 and in accordance with the decision of the General Executive Board of August 5, 1929, this Convention was called five months in advance of the regular period stipulated by the Constitution of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

Previous to the opening of the convention an appropriate musical program was rendered. The hall was banked with flowers and decorated with banners by the local membership, who turned out en masse to greet the delegates.

**CHAIRMAN KREINDLER:** Delegates to the Twentieth Biennial Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union: I extend to you the greetings of the Local Arrangements Committee and of all the members of the International of the city of Cleveland. We are happy to have you with us. We most certainly appreciate the decision of the General Executive Board to hold this very important convention in the city of Cleveland, and I want to assure

you that the cloak and dress makers of this city are fully deserving of the honor which your decision bestowed upon them. For they have always been loyal and devoted to the principles of the International and of the American Federation of Labor.

In the last few years our International has gone through many hardships and, at times, lived through very dark days. Yet the cloak and dress makers of Cleveland never lost hope. They kept high the banner of the International and fought for its principles until they succeeded in every respect.

I take pleasure in greeting you most heartily. I assure you that we shall do everything within our power to make your stay very pleasant indeed, and the convention the best that was ever held.

I shall now introduce to you, as the first speaker, Brother Thomas J. Donnelly, Secretary of the Ohio State Federation of Labor.

**BROTHER THOMAS J. DONNELLY:** Mr. Chairman, Delegates, Officers and Guests. I greet you in behalf of the Ohio State Federation of Labor.

All conventions of labor are important. If this were an ordinary convention of your International it would still be an important convention. Yet I believe I am safe in saying that this will be the



most important convention that your organization has held in a number of years.

We who are in the general movement, we who are representatives of the American Federation of Labor, have a realization of what the membership and the officers of your International Union have gone through in the past few years. No wonder we are pleased to see such a marvelous representation, and we shall be even more pleased if, when this convention has adjourned, it has been able to promote the welfare of the individual member of each local composing it. We shall then know that in this convention there has been a renewal of the faith in trade unionism as represented by the American Federation of Labor.

Today, because of the fealty of your officers, because of their ability, because of the assistance given by the American Federation of Labor, bringing your organization up with the other organizations within the American Labor movement, you have one of the best conventions ever held by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union during its entire history.

You are meeting at a time when we are confronted with great unemployment throughout the cities of the nation. From our study of present economic conditions and the relation of labor to industry we have come to the conclusion—a conclusion pretty generally seconded by the far-seeing leaders of industry in this country—that because of increased efficiency in industry, because of the introduction of labor-saving machinery and, in many instances, labor-displacing machinery, the time has come for another great declaration on the part of all labor in America. A great forward step must be made by giving labor in America more leisure and better wages. This can only be achieved by the constructive movement of organized labor working with the other elements of society. We must give to those who are working shorter hours, better wages, that they may have more leisure to enjoy life, and that those who are unemployed may have an opportunity to earn a gainful living.

I want to assure you that we, in Ohio, will be interested in everything you do and, when this convention is over, we shall check up to see if you have made that forward step. (Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN KREINDLER** introduced Brother James O'Malley, Secretary of the Cleveland Federation of Labor, who in a few warm words of cheer and hope, extended the welcome of the local labor movement to the convention and then presented His Honor, John Marshall, Mayor of the city of Cleveland.

**MAYOR MARSHALL:** Mr. Chairman, Delegates, Visitors, Ladies and Gentlemen: My purpose in coming here is not to make a speech about the labor movement, but to tell you how pleased we are in Cleveland that you have decided to come here to deliberate on matters relating to your personal welfare and the welfare of the entire country.

I want you to know that during the time that you are in our city every effort will be made, not only by the members of your organization who live here and have planned so well for your comfort, but by the city government and everybody connected with it, to make you feel that you are the guests of this city. The town is open to you. We want you to have a good time. We know you are going to work hard in your convention and we want you to feel, when you have gone away from Cleveland that this was the best convention you ever had. (Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN KREINDLER:** I shall now introduce to you Brother Harry McLaughlin, President of the Cleveland Federation of Labor and of the Ohio State Federation of Labor.

**BROTHER HARRY McLOUGHLIN:** I shall be very brief. I am not much of an orator or a talker. I believe in action instead of words. In welcoming you here, I want to say in behalf of labor, that it is a great pleasure to be here with you, that you are our kind of people, that I welcome you at all times, and especially on this occasion.

You have come to work out your problems for the benefit of the people back home. This I presume is the idea and the whole thought of your coming here. If there is anything we can do for you or for your International in Cleveland we are at your beck and call. We have a fine central body, and fine trade unions. We are eager to serve you. I know well your local representatives, Kreindler, Katofsky, Friend, the chairman of your Board. They belong to the labor movement in Cleveland. With such men you should make progress. Everybody likes them. They do business in the regular way. I have known your International President for some time. He is a very wonderful gentleman. I know quite a few of the members of your Executive Board. They must have all your co-operation and the cooperation from all of the local organizations throughout the country. (Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN KREINDLER:** It gives me great pleasure to introduce to this convention His Excellency, Myers Y. Cooper, Governor of the State of Ohio. (The audience rose and greeted the executive with tumultuous applause amidst the playing of the orchestra.)

**GOVERNOR COOPER:** I have often been to dinners where you had music with your meals, but this is the first convention I have ever attended where you had music with your speeches.

I am told that there are men and women here from all parts of the United States. May I say to you, as Governor, that, with all respect to the State from which you come, you are now in the best State of the Union. (Applause.) Mindful of the seven million of people in Ohio I say to you that we want to give you such a general welcome and let you feel so much at home that you will go back with this conviction.

We know you are going to have a splendid convention. I am in hearty sympathy with labor. I am proud of the fact that the intelligence of the American worker enables us to pay four times the wages of other countries. So intelligently do our workers perform their

task, that we manufacture and market 50 per cent of all the manufactured products that are used in the world.

I think it is simply fine that great organizations such as the American Federation of Labor and similar movements do get together in co-operation to better the conditions of their fellow workers.

Abraham Lincoln said eighty-two years ago, far seeing into the future, that it was the duty of government to enable labor to get the whole benefit of its effort, or nearly so. To-day, we are endeavoring to bring unemployment to an irreducible minimum throughout the nation and we all realize, of course, that such task can be accomplished only through the co-operation of all agencies, namely, the Government, industry, labor.

A week ago the President of the United States asked me, as Governor of the State of Ohio, to help meet a situation growing out of a precipitous decline in stock market values that was menacing the economic well-being and threatening dire and serious unemployment. I answered that request with action. Ohio has set in motion every governmental agency, state and local, to take up any laxity due to this temporary economic unbalancing. We are going to be thrown out of our economic stride only temporarily. We are calling on industry, and they are responding; we are calling on labor, and they are responding.

There are no great stocks on hand of supplies or manufactured products anywhere. Our economic balance must be preserved, but we shall not merely THINK that it will happen. We shall work to see that there is no economic unbalancing. This is exactly what we are doing in Ohio and what is being done throughout the nation.

One word more. Eighty per cent of the cost of the products in industry goes to labor; twenty percent to raw material. I fear that we have been paying too much attention to that twenty per cent. The time has come when we must pay more attention to the eighty per cent. That can be brought about by a commensurate wage that will provide a guar-

antee of American standard of living. Prosperity means the protection of prosperity itself and that is the aim and object of the government. All of the people must share in the blessing of prosperity so that children may be educated, homes of comfort may be provided, and happiness extended to the last man and woman. (Prolonged applause.)

**CHAIRMAN KREINDLER:** Before introducing the next speaker I desire to make public the names of those who sent flowers to the convention: The Joint Board of Cleveland Cloak and Dressmakers' Union; Workers of the Kellor Shop; Locals No. 26 and No. 27; Women Workers' Local No. 29; Pressers' Local No. 37; Local No. 2, New York; Workers of Sigelman White; Workers of Schwartz Cloak; Cutters' Locals No. 42 and 44; Workers of Goodman Shop; Workers of Solomon Feinman.

The time has now come when I should turn over this gavel to the proper man to wield it. He is at the head of our organization. Whenever trouble occurs he is ready to come to us and help in the building of this International Union. I have the honor to introduce to this convention Benjamin Schlesinger, President of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. (Ovation.)

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** Delegates, Members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union of the City of Cleveland and guests: I am so moved by your reception I cannot find proper words to express my feelings at this moment. I am simply overwhelmed. I don't think I deserve all this for I sincerely believe that you and those you represent have done a thousand times more for me than I, in all my years, have done for any of you. There is at least one man here who deserves considerably more than I do, a man who has done so much work, who has displayed so much energy during the last months in particular as to deserve such a reception much more than I do. I am very glad to name that man—he is Brother David Dubinsky. (Applause.)

May I at this moment express my sin-

cere thanks to the officers and leaders of the Cleveland Unions, to the State and City government, to Secretary Donnelly, to his Excellency the Governor and to His Honor the Mayor for the hearty welcome extended to this convention.

To me personally it is very gratifying that our convention takes place in the city of Cleveland, for some of my earliest and many of my tenderest memories of our beloved Union are bound up inextricably with this city. Decisions of great moment and actions of great importance to our Union and our workers have come out of Cleveland. No wonder I feel that my whole life is indissolubly connected with it.

Twenty-six years ago we met here in a little hall in Perry Street. We were then an infant organization seeking to establish ourselves. At that convention I was, for the first time, elected president of this Union. Eleven years later, in 1914, I assumed presidency of the International for the second time at a convention in this same city. Then we were a strong, influential body composed of tens of thousands of members. And in 1922 I was re-elected in Cleveland for the sixth time as chief executive. Now, after seven years, we are again here, gathered to meet in, what seems to me, the most significant convention ever held by our organization in all its history.

Please forgive me these personal references. I can't help thinking that our convention here to-day illuminates the most interesting pages in my life, memories of which shall linger with me as long as I live. But no more of this.

I need not go into great detail concerning the confusion that existed in our ranks during the past five years, particularly in our New York City organizations, by reason of the activities of the Communist adventurers who sought to break down the labor movement by their criminal, splitting tactics. If I make reference to that nightmare it is only to say that the Communists have been reduced to zero and that our organization has resumed its forward march. My time will be more usefully consumed if I will rather give you a short resume of the

general strike in the cloak industry in New York last summer. For there we were confronted with industrial problems that have a bearing on related industries and particularly on other cloak and dress centres.

In our negotiations with the manufacturers' associations of New York for a new agreement, we demanded certain limitations of the re-organization right, an increase in wages, the re-establishment of the unemployment insurance fund, with the manufacturers as the sole contributors, and certification of contractors. The employers demanded a return to piece work and an increase in the weekly working hours from forty to forty-two hours. The negotiations failed and our Union had no alternative but to call a general strike in the cloak industry.

It was the shortest strike ever experienced by our industry in New York or outside. This was due, firstly, to the fact that the response of the workers was virtually unanimous, thus convincing the employers that the Union had been rehabilitated; and, secondly, to the friendly and public-spirited attitude of the Governor of New York State, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and the Lieutenant-Governor, Herbert H. Lehman.

The strike was called on July 2nd, amid soul-inspiring enthusiasm. The blow had been struck against the hated sweatshop which had outraged all human dignity. The challenge was heard throughout the city and its echoes reverberated in the State Capitol at Albany. For the next day the Governor forwarded an invitation to us, as well as to the employers' associations to confer with him. Mr. James J. Walker, Mayor of New York City, also was impressed by the gravity of the situation and invited all factors to a conference, but his invitation reached us after the Governor's.

A conference was held in Albany attended by representatives of the Union and the employers. The Union program for abolition of the sweatshop and the elimination of cut-throat competition so impressed the Governor that he pledged

himself to co-operate in every possible way.

The next seven days were devoted to a series of conferences in New York under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant-Governor. The result of these conferences was the working-out of a three-year agreement whose significance is profound and far-reaching. The agreement, among other features, provided for the establishment of a permanent Commission to curb the substandard shops and sweatshops. The Commission is composed of eleven members—two from our Union and two from each of the three employers' associations, and three representatives of the public appointed by the Governor,—Mr. George W. Alger, Mrs. Caspar Whitney and Dr. S. S. Goldwater. Mr. Raymond V. Ingersoll, the Impartial Chairman in the Cloak Industry, is the Director of this Commission. The Commission was given the authority to employ accountants, investigators, statisticians and other employees, and is to make public its findings and recommendations regarding all matters pertaining to the production of cloaks and suits in sweatshops and substandard shops.

The chain stores, mail order houses and department stores, which had in recent years become a factor seriously affecting the stability of our industry due to their tremendous buying power, were next to engage the attention of our Union. It had been understood that these and other groups should participate in the Commission. I am happy to say that a step in that direction has already been taken by the Governor, and that he has called a meeting of our Commission for December 12 to which the heads of department stores and other retail institutions have also been invited. I am certain that this meeting will be the beginning of a whole series of conferences of all factors in the industry—the workers, manufacturers, jobbers, contractors, retailers—and that they will result in the elimination of sweatshops and substandard shops from the industry.

I am full of hope that we will continue



to move forward and onward. Wishes and desires, however, are not enough to hasten progress. Our progress depends on the general condition of our own industry and, as part of the industrial fabric of our nation, we are also dependent on the state of our national economy.

At present our country is going through an industrial depression. It looks as if this depression will stay with us for some time. But even in times of prosperity we must expect, in a highly seasonal industry like ours, multitudes of workers to be unemployed. It is, therefore, our duty to put on a solid basis, within our industry, an institution which would be in a position to give material relief to our workers in time of need.

It is idle for me to dwell here at length on the imperative need of Unemployment Insurance in our industry. Nor do I need to recall the deplorable fact that such an institution, operating for two years in our New York market, was rendered ineffective by circumstances with which the constructive forces in our organization could not cope for a certain period. The experience of the past few years has strengthened my conviction of the necessity of Unemployment Insurance; and more than ever before am I convinced that such Unemployment Insurance must be carried by the industry exclusively; that the worker must not be burdened with contributions to it, for any contribution by the worker would in fact amount to taking a pittance from one pocket and putting it into another.

I wish to speak on behalf of the Old Age security program adopted without a dissenting vote at the last convention of the American Federation of Labor. There is no greater tragedy to the worker than to be thrown on the scrap heap of industry at the age of 55 or 60 or 65 to face his declining years in fear and insecurity, after he had given his best years to productive labor.

Government figures, furnished by the United States Pauper Census, reveal the appalling fact that the number of

poorhouse inmates have increased over 100 per cent among Americans 65 years old and over. In 1880, the number of inmates was 25.6 per cent; in 1890, 31.8; in 1904, 40.6; in 1910, 42.7 and in 1923, the last available figures, 53.8 per cent.

The country, the State, the general public have a responsibility to the superannuated worker. With the development of machinery, with the growth of invention, with the complicated growth of industry, the speed-up system, the monotony of toil, the worker is played out, exhausted before his time. He is prematurely aged and must make way for fresh blood and younger energy. The system is remorseless and plays no favorites. Graying hair, a slowing up of productive effort leaves the middle-aged worker out though his best years have been given to feed, clothe and shelter humanity.

Upon whom should the burden fall? The State must recognize its responsibility to its citizens. We, at this convention should, therefore, concur in the recommendations of the American Federation of Labor that laws be enacted requiring a pension commission for every county in every State of the Union and that the problem of old-age retirement for employes be given careful study and that an effort be made to secure the counsel and co-operation of sympathetic individuals and groups in an effort to work out constructive plans on this subject.

In conclusion, let me thank you again for your very fine reception of me and also thank the speakers who have preceded me for their lofty sentiments. Allow me, fellow delegates, to impress upon you this thought, this basic idea, which I believe should be the living force in every labor union, in every progressive organization: We must never stop going ahead, we must never move a step backward! In bad as well as in good times, in times of industrial boom, as well as in periods of uncertainty, our motto should be—always ahead, always forward! We can gain nothing, we cannot even preserve hard-won gains, by policies of inertia or retreat. We shall

gain strength on all sides by continuously pressing forward our legitimate demands for better, ever better living and working conditions for our members.

We come to the convention with a banner proudly unfurled. Let us keep that banner high and under it keep on marching forward. (Thunderous applause.)

I now declare the opening ceremony to end and call the convention to order.

**DELEGATE ISIDORE NAGLER**, Joint Board, New York: I move that the convention send a message of thanks and appreciation to Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt and Lieut. Gov. Herbert H. Lehman of New York for their interest in our efforts to eliminate substandard and sweatshop conditions from the industry.

(The motion was unanimously carried.)

**DELEGATE SALVATORE NINFO**: I move that the convention send thanks to Mayor James J. Walker, of New York City, for his friendly efforts during the cloakmakers' strike.

(The motion was carried unanimously.)

**DELEGATE DAVID FRUHLING**, Local 10: I move that this convention extend greetings to one who has done a great deal to eradicate some of the disturbing elements in our organization. He has been seriously ill in a hospital and is now convalescing. And so I move that a telegram of greetings and hope for speedy recovery be sent to our ex-president, Brother Morris Sigman.

(The motion was carried amid hearty applause.)

#### Telegrams Sent by the Convention

The following telegrams were sent as instructed by the Convention:

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Governor,  
Executive Mansion,  
Albany, N. Y.

Dec. 2, 1929.

The 20th convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union

now assembled in Public Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio, sends you thanks and best wishes. Due to your personality and influence the strike of the Cloakmakers last July was the shortest in the history of the women's garment industry in New York. The present agreement in the cloakmaking industry which you and Lieutenant-Governor Lehman have helped to work out is a great contribution to the industry and the community at large. We shall always remember you with love and admiration and eagerly look forward to your continued sympathetic action in helping to solve the problems of our great industry.

Benjamin Schlesinger, President.

Hon. Herbert H. Lehman,  
Lieutenant-Governor,  
Executive Mansion,  
Albany, N. Y.

Dec. 2, 1929.

The 20th Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union now assembled in Public Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio, as one of its first actions sends you its thanks for all you have done to help us rejuvenate our organization and bring it to its former strength and influence. Your keen appreciation of the problems of the Cloakmakers of New York displayed last July and on previous occasions makes us proud to claim you as a sincere friend.

Benjamin Schlesinger, President.

Hon. James J. Walker, Mayor,  
City Hall,  
New York City, N. Y.

Dec. 2, 1929.

The 20th Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union now assembled in Public Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio, extends to you its thanks for the sympathetic way in which you acted in the Cloakmakers' strike of last July by inviting all parties in the industry to a peace conference and for the friendship you have shown at the time the agreement was signed in the City Hall. Best wishes to you and kindest regards.

Benjamin Schlesinger, President.

Morris Sigman,  
Colonial Hospital,  
Rochester, Minn.

Dec. 2, 1929.

The 20th convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, assembled in Cleveland, Ohio, as one of its first acts sends you its warmest fraternal greetings. All the delegates join in the wish that you may soon be re-

stored to perfect health. Your many years of unselfish service to the International have won for you a permanent place in the love and affection of our entire membership.

20th Convention, I. L. G. W. U.  
Benjamin Schlesinger, President.  
Abraham Baroff, Secretary.

The convention adjourned at 12:30 till 2 p. m.

## First Day—Monday Afternoon Session

Cleveland, Ohio, December 2, 1929.

The convention was called to order at 2:15 o'clock by President Schlesinger.

Secretary Baroff read telegrams from organizations, shops and individuals, which are printed in full in the third day's minutes.

Isidore Nagler, Chairman of the Committee on Credentials, made the following report:

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

Your Committee on Credentials having been duly appointed by the President of our International Union was charged, in accordance with our Constitution, primarily with two duties, first, to examine the credentials and to ascertain the eligibility of the delegates to this Convention and, second, to inquire into the indebtedness of the General Office and take measures towards liquidating these debts.

In both above mentioned duties, your Committee, actuated by a genuine spirit of impartiality, discharged its duties in accordance with the Constitution of our International Union.

Your Committee is mindful of the fact that this Convention has been called somewhat earlier than prescribed in our Constitution. On December 12, 1928, in anticipation of the General Strike of the cloakmakers in New York City, the General Executive Board issued a manifesto

to the cloak and dressmakers calling upon them to rejoin our International Union in order that our organization might present a united front and become a stronger power against the employers, who were challenging the strength of our International Union. They were also given an opportunity to participate in the administration and affairs of the Union.

The last convention of the I. L. G. W. U. was held in Boston only nineteen months ago, but these nineteen months were epochal in the history of our organization. During this time a great change has taken place within our International Union and its affiliated Local Unions. In spite of the constant internal struggle within our International Union for the past five years, the victorious general strike of the cloakmakers has brought back thousands of our members into the fold of our International and has brought about a condition whereby our members employed in the Cloak Industry in the City of New York again are able to enjoy humane conditions for themselves and their families. The successful termination of the general strike of the cloakmakers in the City of New York marks the restoration of our Union. We are glad to have this opportunity to rejoice and celebrate our victory.

Your Committee is confident that this Convention in its deliberations will reach decisions that will further strengthen our International Union and bring about a spirit of unity among our

great membership and thus again place our International among the foremost trade unions in the American Labor Movement.

The first session of the Credential Committee was held in the International Office, 3 West 16th Street, on Tuesday, November 26; and the last session, in the Hotel Winton, Cleveland, Ohio, on December 2, 1929.

Your Committee examined the credentials of 178 delegates representing 63 Local Unions and 6 Joint Boards and of 2 General Officers of the International Union, composing the following trades under the jurisdiction of our International in the United States and Canada:

Cloakmakers .....	115
Dressmakers .....	35
Tuckers and hemstitchers.....	4
Embroidery workers .....	1
White goods workers .....	4
Raincoat makers .....	7
Ladies' tailors .....	4
Joint Boards .....	6

Total delegates .....	176
General Officers .....	2

An examination of the credentials of the delegates disclosed but a few objections. This situation, in contrast to the condition that prevailed in the conventions of the last few years, is, in the opinion of your Committee, indicative of the spirit of harmony and unity which prevails among our membership at this time and is proof of the extreme confidence and faith that our membership has in the delegates to this Convention.

By virtue of the authority vested in the Credential Committee by the Convention, the Locals were summoned to appear before our Committee and were instructed to show to what extent their various debts to the International Union could be liquidated at this time. Your Committee has been furnished with statements by the General Office of debts due it by the various Locals.

Your Committee, in this connection, has made a careful survey of the various items comprising these debts, the greater part of which represents the

1926 assessment, as well as the items of expenditure during the reorganization of 1926 and 1927.

Ever since this assessment was charged against the Locals, the International Union has kept the items open on its books as accounts receivable and has considered the debts among its assets. Your Committee, after making its survey, feels that the Local Unions cannot meet their obligations to the General Office, at this time. Your committee is fully cognizant of the obligations of the International Union and the New York Joint Board. Your Committee therefore hopes that this Convention will make some provision to meet these obligations. Should such provisions be made at this Convention your Committee recommends the writing off of the 1926 assessments and the items of expenditures in connection with the reorganization of the Locals of the New York Joint Board from the books of the General Office.

Your Committee further reports that a number of Local Unions of the New York Joint Board have made partial payments on the current balance, on account of their indebtedness. The following is a list of the Locals and the total of their indebtedness. The list does not include Locals that owe less than \$100.00 to the International.

Local No. 2—Cloak, Suit and Reefer Operators' Union (New York), \$58,689.97.

Local No. 3—Samplemakers, Cloak & Suit Tailors' Union (New York), \$4,331.25.

Local No. 8—Ladies Garment Workers' Union (San Francisco) \$519.98.

Local No. 9—Cloak & Suit Finishers' Union (New York), \$22,258.98.

Local No. 10—Amalgamated Cutters' Union (New York), \$12,208.00.

Local No. 17—Reefer and Infant Coat Union (New York), \$2,645.49.

Local No. 20—Waterproof Garment Workers' Union (New York), \$474.50.

Local No. 21—Ladies' Tailors' and Cloakmakers' Union (Newark, N. J.) \$224.88.



Local No. 22—Dressmakers' Union of Greater New York, \$23,639.70.

Local No. 23—Skirtmakers' Union (New York), \$5,740.50.

Local No. 24—Waterproof Workers' Union (Boston) \$1,047.05.

Local No. 35—Cloak, Skirt & Dress Pressers' Union (New York), \$29,148.25.

Local No. 36—Cloak & Dressmakers' Union (Mt. Vernon), \$368.13.

Local No. 41—Hemstitchers & Tuckers' Union (New York), \$7,587.26.

Local No. 47—Italian Cloak, Suit & Skirtmakers' Union (Philadelphia), \$492.00.

Local No. 48—Italian Cloakmakers' Union (New York), \$39,479.05.

Local No. 50—Waist & Dressmakers' Union (Philadelphia), \$5,417.85.

Local No. 51—Dress & Whitegoods Workers' Union (Passaic), \$230.89.

Local No. 57—Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (Woodhaven, L. I.), \$326.50.

Local No. 62—Whitegoods Workers' Union (New York), \$11,349.20.

Local No. 64—Buttonhole Makers' Union (New York), \$438.00.

Local No. 66—Bonnar Embroidery Workers' Union (New York), \$1,284.30.

Local No. 67—Cloakmakers' Union, (Toledo, Ohio), \$115.75.

Local No. 75—Cloak & Dressmakers' Union, (Worcester, Mass.), \$504.05.

Local No. 77—Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (Woodhaven, L. I.), \$475.88.

Local No. 82—Examiners' & Bushelers' Union (New York), \$1,658.70.

Local No. 89—Italian Dressmakers' Union (New York) \$18,369.40.

Local No. 91—Childrens' Dress & Bathrobe Workers' (New York), \$5,226.65.

Local No. 107—Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (Woodhaven, L. I.), \$1,734.26.

Local No. 112—Garment Workers' Union of Mt. Vernon, \$1,926.00.

Local No. 134—Cloak, Waist and Dressmakers' Union of Hackensack, \$284.85.

Local No. 136—Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (Jersey City), \$293.59.

Local No. 138—Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (Colchester, Conn.), \$165.13.

Local No. 140—Ladies' Garment Workers' Union of Plainfield, \$317.25.

Joint Board of St. Louis, Mo., \$621.13.

Joint Board of Boston, Mass., \$3,204.00.

Joint Board of Toronto, Canada, \$4,006.81.

Joint Board of Philadelphia, Pa., \$5,992.75.

Joint Board of Cleveland, Ohio, \$2,315.30.

Joint Board of Chicago, Ill., \$7,996.90.

Joint Board of New York.

After considering the indebtedness of the above-mentioned Locals toward the General Office, the Credentials Committee recommends that the delegates of these Locals be seated and that this Convention instruct the incoming General Executive Board to see that every Local Union makes good its indebtedness to the International Union within sixty days after the Convention adjourns. We now submit to you a list of delegates, whom we recommend to be seated at this Convention by Locals and Joint Boards:

Local No. 2—Cloak, Suit & Reefer Operators' Union, New York—Benjamin Schlesinger, Benj. Kaplan, Benj. Moser, Alex Student, H. Fried, R. Zuckerman, A. Abramson, B. Golub, I. Feinberg, A. Rosenberg, N. Hines, Harry Chancer.

Local No. 3—Sample Makers, Cloak & Suit Tailors' Union, New York — Leon Schwager, Bernet Fenster, Otto Pick.

Local No. 4—Ladies Garment Workers' Union, Baltimore, Md.—A. D. Glushakow.

Local No. 5—Cloak Makers, Chicago, Ill.—Dave Borowitz, Dave Feltelson, Sol Flack.

Local No. 8—Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, San Francisco, Cal.—A. Plotkin.

Local No. 9—Cloak & Suit Tailors, New York—N. Kirtzman, L. Kaufman, S. Goldstein, H. Newman, B. Rosenberg, N. Liss, M. Remback.

Local No. 10—Amalgamated Cutters,

New York—David Dublinsky, Samuel Perlmutter, M. W. Jacobs, David Fruhling, Louis Pankin, Max Stoller.

Local No. 12—Pressers' Union, Boston, Mass. — Hyman Newman, Abraham Rolter.

Local No. 14—Cloak & Dressmakers of Toronto, Canada—Sol Abrams.

Local No. 17—Reefer & Infant Coat Union, New York—Meyer Orshwitz, Abraham Belson, Jacob J. Heller, Morris Leventhal, Jos. Stankevich.

Local No. 18—Cloak, Suit & Dress Pressers, Chicago, Ill.—Dave Jerome.

Local No. 19—Cloak & Suit Cutters, Montreal, Canada—Albert Eaton.

Local No. 20—Waterproof Garment Workers, New York—Meyer Pollinsky, Samuel Freedman, Sol Oleaky.

Local No. 21—Cloak & Skirt Makers, Newark, N. J.—Leo Arch.

Local No. 22—Dressmakers' Union of New York—Julius Hochman, Joseph Spielman, Nathan Margolies, Jos. Schneider, Rose Mirsky, Ph. Dinnersteip, Ida Rubin, Is. Rosenfeld.

Local No. 23—Skirt Makers' Union, New York—Samuel Fremed, Harry Wandler, S. Frumchick, Chas. Jacobson.

Local No. 24—Waterproof Garment Workers' Union, Boston, Mass.—Barnett Colker, Morris Rosenthal.

Local No. 26—Cloak Operators' Union, Cleveland, Ohio—Louis Friend, Sam Finkel, Nathan Solomon.

Local No. 27—Skirt Operators' Union, Cleveland, Ohio—Harry Baxt, Jack Silverstein.

Local No. 29—Women Garment Workers of Cleveland, Ohio—Tillie Colkins, Tillie Creske, Carrie Gallagher.

Local No. 35—Cloak, Skirt & Dress Pressers, New York—Joseph Breslaw, Max Cohen, Isidore Wasilevsky, Louis Langer, Max Carolinsky, Louis Biegel, Louis Reiff, Israel Rothstein.

Local No. 36—Ladies' Garment Workers, Yonkers, N. Y.—Harry Ettinger.

Local No. 37—Cloak & Skirt Pressers, Cleveland, Ohio—Julius Gorainik, Sam Turk.

Local No. 38—Ladies' Tailors' Union,

New York—Boris Drasin, Isadore Jacobs, Raphael Viullo, Rose Braunstein.

Local No. 40—Cloak & Skirt Makers, Philadelphia, Pa.—Morris Domskey, Abe Golden, Myer Shamia.

Local No. 41—Tuckers, Hemstitchers, New York—Jacob Halperin, Max Grackin, Saul Brown, Sam Richman.

Local No. 42—Ladies' Garment Cutters' Union, Cleveland, Ohio—Chas. Kreindler, Morris Teitel.

Local No. 44—Italian Cloak Makers, Cleveland, Ohio—Joe Magistro, Joe Alamia.

Local No. 46—Dress & Waistmakers, Boston, Mass.—Bessie Hurwitz, Joe Miller, Isaac Posen.

Local No. 47—Italian Cloak & Skirt Makers, Philadelphia, Pa.—Ralph Donato.

Local No. 48—Italian Cloak Makers, New York—Eduardo Molisani, Basilio Desti, Alfio Rifci, Antonio Cottone, Alfredo Ingulli, Ettore Piccione, Nunzio Castrovinci, Giovanni Blondo, Corrado Nizza.

Local No. 50—Waist & Dressmakers, Philadelphia, Pa.—Ellas Reisberg, Mary Levin, Ab. Bloomfield.

Local No. 51—Dressmakers, Passaic, N. J.—Salvatore W. Bagolle, Fannia M. Cohn.

Local No. 53—Amalgamated Cutters, Philadelphia, Pa.—Jacob Kessler, Harry Dordick.

Local No. 54—Raincoat Makers, Chicago, Ill.—Mollie Friedman, H. Cohen.

Local No. 56—Cloak Makers' Boston, Mass.—Louis Rosenfeld, Henry Silverman.

Local No. 57—Ladies' Garment Workers, Jamaica, L. I.—Dorothy Jasinska.

Local No. 59—Cloak Finishers, Chicago, Ill.—Harry Rufer, Simon Packer, Max Trubakoff.

Local No. 62—White Goods' Workers, New York—Abraham Snyder, Fannie Bramer, Fannie Shapiro, Rose Grad.

Local No. 64—Buttonhole Workers, New York—A. Brick.

Local No. 66—Bonnaz Embroidery Workers' Union, New York—Leon Hattab.

Local No. 67—Garment Workers' Union, Toledo, Ohio — Moe Flaum, Harry Beim.

Local No. 69—Cloak Finishers' Union, Philadelphia, Pa.—Beckie Stein, Sarah Greenberg.

Local No. 71—Cloak Pressers, Philadelphia, Pa.—George Rubin, B. Israel.

Local No. 73—Garment Cutters, Boston, Mass.—Philip Kramer, Robert Trehub.

Local No. 75—Cloak & Dressmakers, Worcester, Mass.—Sol Polakoff, Louis Horwitz.

Local No. 77—Ladies' Garment Workers, Corona, L. I.—G. DiNola.

Local No. 78—Cloak Makers, St. Louis, Mo.—Ben Gilbert.

Local No. 80—Italian Cloak & Dressmakers, Boston, Mass.—Mario Turco, Alfred Dimino.

Local No. 81—Cutters, Chicago, Ill.—M. Schwartzberg.

Local No. 82—Examiners, New York City—Leon Rosenblatt, Morris Greifer.

Local No. 88—Garment Workers' Union of Bayonne—Marco Durante.

Local No. 89—Italian Dressmakers, New York—Luigi Antonini, Carmelo Iandoli, Frank Olivo, Santo Aversano, Lillie Raitano.

Local No. 91—Children's Dressmakers, New York — Harry Greenberg, Morris Berkowitz, Peter LiCausi, Mary Yankelevitch.

Local No. 92—Cloak Pressers, Toronto, Canada—Sam Kralesman.

Local No. 100—Dressmakers, Chicago, Ill.—Anna Klibanoff, Ethel Spink, Mary Fisher.

Local No. 107—Ladies' Garment Workers, Woodhaven, L. I.—Jacob Grossman.

Local No. 113—Ladies' Garment Workers, Mt. Vernon, N. Y.—M. Elsberg.

Local No. 127—Cloakmakers' Union, Stamford, Conn.—Louis Wexler.

Local No. 134—Garment Workers, Hackensack, N. J.—Florence Pattie.

Local No. 136—Ladies' Garment Workers, Jersey City, N. J.—Isaac Levy, Chas. Carotenuto.

Local No. 140—Ladies' Garment Workers, Plainfield, N. J.—Mary Varden.

Joint Board of New York—Isidore Nagler.

Joint Board of Cleveland—Abraham Katovsky.

Joint Board of Chicago—Morris Bialla.

Joint Board of Boston—Max Amdur.

Joint Board of Toronto—Abr. Kirzner.

Joint Board of Philadelphia — Samuel Rudin.

In addition to the number of delegates just seated at this Convention, we desire to announce that the General Secretary-Treasurer Abraham Baroff and the first Vice-President Salvatore Ninfo are delegates to this Convention by virtue of their office, as per our Constitution.

Your Committee received an objection from Brother Loe Rosenbaum, a member of Local No. 9, Ledger No. 1045, against Brother S. Berman, a member of Local No. 9. The ground on which the objection was brought was that as Chairman of the shop of Lefkowitz & Pitofsky, Brother Berman acted in a manner unbefitting a member of the Union. Brother Rosenbaum attempted to substantiate his claim by the following statement: "During the General Strike of 1926 when strike benefit was paid to the workers of their shop, a worker, Brother Frank Kastenowitz, refused to accept his strike benefit checks. Brother Berman, as Chairman of the shop, appropriated the checks for his personal use." Brother Rosenbaum continued to state that after the General Strike, Brother Berman again as Chairman of the shop permitted Union rules to be violated.

Brother Kirzman, Manager of Local No. 9, appeared as counsel for Brother Berman and stated that the latter is an active member of his Local Union. During the many years of his activity, no charges were ever brought against Brother Berman.

Brother Kirzman further stated that during Brother Berman's chairmanship of the shop of Lefkowitz & Pitofsky, during the crucial period of our organization and prior to the General Strike, Brother Berman consulted him and other

officers of the Union on all matters pertaining to the shop and whatever was done by Brother Berman was done with the knowledge and consent of the Union.

Your Committee, after carefully considering the testimony in the case, found that there was not sufficient evidence to prove the charges against Brother Berman. Brother Berman is known to your Committee as a very active member of the Union.

Your Committee therefore unanimously recommends that he be seated as a delegate to this Convention.

We received an objection from Brother A. Dressner, member of Local No. 39, against Brothers Max Holman and Bernard Goldberg, delegates to this Convention to represent Local No. 39, Boston. He objected on the ground that Brothers Holman and Goldberg had worked six Saturdays at the rate of single time without the knowledge of the Union.

Brother Max Holman, Chairman of Local No. 39, Ledger No. 133, testified that he worked two Saturdays at the rate of time and one-half, with the permission of the Union.

Brother Bernard Goldberg, Local No. 39, Ledger No. 33, testified that he too received permission from the Union to work two Saturdays at the rate of time and one-half in the shop of Morris Rubens together with Brother Holman.

Brother Holman informed the Committee that Brother Dressner took this step in order to revenge himself against Brother Goldberg and himself, Holman, because they refused to continue paying him relief. They also informed the Committee that Brother Dressner has not been active in the Union for approximately four months.

Both brothers informed the Committee that this shop is no longer in existence.

Brother Louis Rosenfield, Local No. 56, Ledger No. 662, a delegate to this Convention, appeared as a witness for the defendants. He stated having worked with these members in the Rubin shop for five years. No work was done, he stated, without the consent of the Union.

He corroborated the statements of Brothers Holman and Goldberg that they worked two Saturdays at the rate of time and one-half.

Vice-President Amdur and Vice-President Kramer, in charge of the Boston organization, appeared before the Credentials Committee and stated that the shop was one of the best controlled in the city and that to their knowledge, Brothers Holman and Goldberg did not violate any of the rules of the Union.

Your Committee, after carefully considering the testimony in the case, recommends that these brothers be seated as delegates to the Convention.

In conclusion, your Committee expresses its thanks to President Schlesinger for the honor bestowed upon them and hopes for a successful and constructive Convention.

This concludes the report of the Committee on Credentials.

(Signed) Isidore Nagler, Chairman.

Nathan Margolies, Secretary

Edward Molisani

Alexander Student

Louis Friend

Samuel Rudin

Max Cohen.

The report was adopted and President Schlesinger discharged the committee with the thanks of the convention.

President Schlesinger appointed the following delegates as sergeant-at-arms:

Sam Finkel, Chairman, Local No. 26.

Harry Chancer, Local No. 2.

Sol Flack, Local No. 5.

S. Berman, Local No. 9.

A. Roiter, Local No. 12.

A. Belson, Local No. 17.

E. Piccioni, Local No. 48.

#### Professor Hollander Addresses Convention

President Schlesinger then presented to the convention Dr. Jacob H. Hollander, professor of economics at the John Hopkins University, and Impartial Chairman in the Cloakmaking Industry in the city of Cleveland for seven years. He was



enthusiastically received and made the following address:

**PROFESSOR JACOB H. HOLLANDER:** I was called out to Cleveland in connection with routine matters, and I should have left last night for my home, but I certainly would have been pretty poor stuff if I had not planned to stay over to meet the convention. This is not my first meeting. Many of you will perhaps remember that I had the privilege of attending the Boston convention five years ago.

What you want, or perhaps what you expect of me is some account of what has taken place in Cleveland in these years, and then perhaps a few comments on the general situation as my experience here suggests. The Cleveland industry has been more or less dominated by the agreement, as we called it, entered into eleven years ago. During the first four years of that agreement, I was only an onlooker, but in 1922 I became associated with it, first as a member of the Board of Referees, and very soon after that as impartial chairman.

It has been interesting throughout, not interesting merely to one as an outsider, because one who takes a part in the progress of an institution inevitably feels himself identified with it. All I can say is that I survived and am still holding my job. I haven't found it easy to shake it off. Again and again I have asked to be relieved, but other considerations always prevailed.

I remember that one of the parties in one decision—I cannot tell you which party it was—said, "Yes, we notice, Doctor, we get the kind words and the other side gets the decisions." After all, I think the highest tribute that can be paid to an impartial chairman is that both sides are in absolute union.

As far as Cleveland is concerned I submit that the record is really remarkable in the history of American industry. For eleven years practically there has not been a day's interruption of work in the establishments connected with the agreement. That has been

brought about thru an increasing efficiency on the part of the executive representatives of the Union and of the Association. I have not been brought here for the purpose of sounding the praises of the local representatives, but it is right, although they would be as much surprised to hear it as any of you, that recognition should be made of the work of men like Kreindler, Katofsky, Friend, and a good many others whom I might mention. They really have developed a degree of sagacity and diplomacy, and above all, fidelity in the matter. I am quite within bounds when I say that when I ask one of these men to tell me the truth I get the truth. Sometimes he has to whisper it in my ear, but I get the truth without putting him under oath or anything of the kind.

The arbitral hearings would impress any one who has ever attended them; we rarely, if ever, have a lawyer present, and when we do we are always sorry for it, but they are held with great dignity. The day of table-banging and loud shouting is over. The hearings are carried on with quiet dignity, and, above all, with expedition.

Our Cleveland experience also throws interesting light on another feature of the arbitral machine, and this is particularly applicable to smaller communities. I don't mean New York, but in cities where the problem of maintaining arbitral machinery is often very serious because of the expense. When I first came here my predecessor had been receiving a very large salary, and that was a serious handicap. It was possible to make the change and to arrange for a very moderate per diem. There was a good deal of doubt expressed. I remember our dear good friend, Judge Mack, thought it was rather a good joke that an impartial chairman in Cleveland should live in Baltimore, but one of the astonishing successes has been the extent to which it has been possible for the impartial chairman to be absent from the scene.

In the last three years I have never had occasion to come out here more than once in six weeks; sometimes once in three months. That doesn't mean that

innumerable small controversies have not arisen, but they have come to a thrifty realization that every time I come means money out of their treasury. The great bulk of such small differences have been adjusted, and instead of the wet-nursing process which results from a resident impartial chairman or impartial umpire, we have had the realization of "Blessed is that country which has no history." My visit is like the doctor's, blessed when I don't come.

With it all, if I might pass from the local situation, you have a problem which is graver and upon which I would like to touch very briefly.

Lately the association which is the party to the agreement has shrunk very greatly in number, so that now only a small part of the industry is a party to the association agreement. Of those not parties to the agreement there are a number that have independent agreements with the Union which reproduce the essential protective features of the association agreement. And there are some that do not.

It is extremely difficult to explain how that has come about. My own opinion is that the outside establishments—and I use the term in a scientific sense and not in the sense of obliquity—have been in a sense parasitic. It has been possible for them to derive the essential benefits of the agreement and of the association without being members of it.

Now the essential benefit of the association has been tranquility in the industry, which has been enjoyed by firms outside as well as those inside, so that in counting the advantages which have resulted from this agreement, I think a very substantial addition must be made for that. Nevertheless that doesn't help the situation as far as the association is concerned.

One of the problems which Cleveland faces is the most complete organization of the industry as far as the employers are concerned. I cannot believe there are insuperable obstacles in the way. I believe that the day of the anti-unionist as an effective force is passing.

As to the real problems, there is first the relationship of Cleveland to the larger market, and I think your Union is facing squarely what seems to me is its greatest problem, the introduction of something which we describe vaguely as standardization, but which doesn't mean outright standardization. It is a conception of the industry that Cleveland can't be right if New York is wrong, and Baltimore can't possibly be anything unless the entire industry is organized so as to take cognizance of what takes place there.

You have found that out so far as labor is concerned. The manufacturers have not found it, as far as employers are concerned, and a great deal of their strategic weakness is that they are caught between the upper and nether millstone. I might elaborate and say they are caught between two millstones on all sides. On the first side, traditionally, your industry has had a body of parasitic consumers. The consuming public, thanks to the sad background of the unorganized sweatshop of the immigrant laborer, has grown accustomed to buying things for less than their actual bona-fide value.

Then again, the industry has failed to recognize the developments that have taken place in the distributive industry. The merchant is organized in chain stores or group stores, and the producer finds himself squeezed at that angle, and he follows what he thinks is the line of least resistance in opposing the labor factor.

It seems to me those are factors which extend beyond local adjustment, and Cleveland has had to face them as many of your locals have had to face them. The larger problem which, it seems to me, confronts your Union, and toward the solution of which it has made notable strides, is to bring home to the manufacturer, to the employer, that the day of localized activity, localized policies is past, and that his business plans in the way of organization and of relationship to his labor force must take into account not only the other producing centers, the consuming public, but

all of the factors which have become so influential and the existence of which he has been so slow in perceiving.

I hope from the bottom of my heart that at your next convention or at some other convention, some other impartial chairman from Cleveland may be invited to address you. My commitments have grown so imperative, my hair is getting so scant and so white that I almost feel I should embrace this opportunity of bidding the Union good-bye. But I have enjoyed it in a serious sense. I have profited very much by it. (Prolonged applause.)

Upon motion of Delegate Katofsky the Convention unanimously extended its thanks to Professor Hollander for his interesting and instructive address.

President Schlesinger explained to the delegates that the name of one of the signatories to the report of the General Executive Board, First Vice-President Ninfo, had been omitted by error and that this error would be corrected in the final convention proceedings. Due to his illness, Pres. Schlesinger said, he had been unable to participate in the preparation of the report, nor did he read copy or proof of it, receiving it only in its final printed form.

President Schlesinger then announced the following convention committees:

#### COMMITTEE ON OFFICERS' REPORT

Abr. Katofsky, Cleveland Joint Board,  
Chairman

Israel Feinberg, Local No. 2.  
B. Fenster, Local No. 3.  
N. Kirtzman, Local No. 9.  
Max Stoller, Local No. 10.  
Jos. Spielman, Local No. 22.  
Carrie Gallagher, Local No. 29.  
I. Wasilevsky, Local No. 35.  
Boris Draasin, Local No. 38.  
Morris Teitel, Local No. 42.  
A. Ro. Rifci, Local No. 48.  
A. Bloomfield, Local No. 50.  
Max Trubakoff, Local No. 59.  
George Rubin, Local No. 71.  
Ben Gilbert, Local No. 78.  
L. Rosenblatt, Local No. 82.  
C. Sandoll, Local No. 89.

#### ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE

Joseph Breslau, Local No. 35, Chairman.  
Elias Reisberg, Local No. 50.  
Abr. Rosenberg, Local No. 2.  
D. Borowitz, Local No. 5.  
A. Plotkin, Local No. 8.  
D. Fruhling, Local No. 10.  
Sol Abrams, Local No. 14.  
M. Leventhal, Local No. 17.  
Albert Eaton, Local No. 19.  
Meyer Polinsky, Local No. 20.  
Joseph Schneider, Local No. 22.  
Tillie Creske, Local No. 29.  
Julius Goralnick, Local No. 37.  
Bessie Hurwitz, Local No. 46.  
N. Castrovinci, Local No. 48.  
Harry Rufer, Local No. 59.  
Harry Beim, Local No. 67.  
Marco Durante, Local No. 88.  
Anna Kilbanoff, Local No. 100.

#### COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

Julius Hochman, Local No. 22,  
Chairman  
Jacob Heller, Local No. 17.  
Benj. Moser, Local No. 2.  
Leon Schwager, Local No. 3.  
Dave Feltelson, Local No. 5.  
M. W. Jacobs, Local No. 10.  
S. Friedman, Local No. 20.  
Louis Langer, Local No. 35.  
Rose Braunstein, Local No. 38.  
Abe Goldin, Local No. 40.  
Isaac Posen, Local No. 46.  
B. Deatl, Local No. 48.  
Robert Trehub, Local No. 73.  
Louis Hurwitz, Local No. 75.  
Mario Turco, Local No. 80.  
Frank Olivo, Local No. 89.  
Morris Berkowitz, Local No. 91.

#### LAW COMMITTEE

Salvatore Ninfo, Local No. 48,  
Chairman

Harry Greenberg, Local No. 91.  
Benj. Kaplan, Local No. 2.  
H. Newman, Local No. 9.  
S. Perlmutter, Local No. 10.  
J. Stankevitch, Local No. 17.  
Sol Olesky, Local No. 20.  
S. Fremed, Local No. 23.  
B. Co'ker, Local No. 24.  
Nathan Solomon, Local No. 28.  
Harry Baxt, Local No. 27.

Louis Reiff, Local No. 35.  
B. Golubez, Local No. 39.  
M. Domskey, Local No. 40.  
Saul Brown, Local No. 41.  
Alfredo Ingulli, Local No. 48.  
Harry Dordick, Local No. 53.  
Louis Rosenfeld, Local No. 56.  
Alfred Dornive, Local No. 80.

#### COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Harry Wander, Local No. 23, Chairman  
Mollie Friedman, Local No. 54.  
R. Zuckerman, Local No. 2.  
S. Goldstein, Local No. 9.  
Louis Pankin, Local No. 10.  
Leo Arch, Local No. 21.  
Ida Rubin, Local No. 22.  
H. Ettinger, Local No. 36.  
Sam Richman, Local No. 41.  
Joe Miller, Local No. 46.  
Salvatore Bagoile, Local No. 51.  
Dorothy Jasinska, Local No. 57.  
Fannie Shapiro, Local No. 62.  
Sarah Greenberg, Local No. 69.  
Lillie Raitano, Local No. 89.  
Mary Yankelevitch, Local No. 91.  
Ethel Spink, Local No. 100.

#### COMMITTEE ON RULES

Luigi Antonini, Local No. 89, Chairman.  
Philip Kramer, Local No. 73.  
B. Golub, Local No. 2.  
B. Rosenberg, Local No. 9.  
Rose Mirsky, Local No. 22.  
Max Carolinsky, Local No. 35.  
Isadore Jacobs, Local No. 38.  
Max Grackin, Local No. 41.  
Joe Magistro, Local No. 44.  
A. Cottone, Local No. 48.  
H. Cohen, Local No. 54.  
Fannie Bramer, Local No. 62.  
Moe Flaum, Local No. 67.  
G. Di Nola, Local No. 77.  
Morris Greifer, Local No. 82.  
Peter L'Causti, Local No. 91.  
Mary Fisher, Local No. 100.  
Morris Elberg, Local No. 113.  
Florence Pettl, Local No. 134.

#### COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

J. Halpern, Local No. 41, Chairman  
A. Kirzner, Toronto Joint Board.  
A. Abramson, Local No. 2.

N. Liss, Local No. 9.  
H. Newman, Local No. 12.  
Phillip Dinnerstein, Local No. 22.  
Morris Rosenthal, Local No. 24.  
Tillie Colkins, Local No. 29.  
Raphael Vitullo, Local No. 38.  
Ralph Donato, Local No. 47.  
Mary Levin, Local No. 50.  
Henry Silverman, Local No. 56.  
Rose Grad, Local No. 62.  
B. Israel, Local No. 71.  
Santo Aversano, Local No. 89.  
Sam Kraisman, Local No. 92.  
Chas. Carotenuto, Local No. 136.

#### COMMITTEE ON UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE, OLD AGE PENSION, SICK BENEFIT AND GROUP INSURANCE

Max Amdur, Boston Jt. Bd., Chairman  
Morris Blalis, Chicago Joint Board.  
H. Fried, Local No. 2.  
A. D. Glushakow, Local No. 4.  
Otto Pick, Local No. 3.  
M. Remback, Local No. 9.  
Dave Jerome, Local No. 18.  
Chas. Jacobson, Local No. 23.  
Jack Silverstein, Local No. 27.  
Israel Rothstein, Local No. 35.  
Max Kolman, Local No. 39.  
Joe Alania, Local No. 44.  
Carrado Nizza, Local No. 48.  
Fannia M. Cohn, Local No. 51.  
Simon Packer, Local No. 59.  
A. Brick, Local No. 64.  
Sol Polakoff, Local No. 75.  
Jacob Grossman, Local No. 107.  
Isaac Levy, Local No. 136.

#### ADJUSTMENT COMMITTEE

Charles Kreindler, Local No. 42,  
Chairman  
A. Snyder, Local No. 62.  
N. Hines, Local No. 2.  
I. Kaufman, Local No. 9.  
M. Orshowitz, Local No. 17.  
Is. Rosenfeld, Local No. 22.  
S. Frumchick, Local No. 23.  
Louis Bloegel, Local No. 35.  
Sam Turk, Local No. 37.  
Meyer Shamis, Local No. 40.  
G. Blondo, Local No. 48.  
Jacob Kessler, Local No. 53.  
Leon Hattab, Local No. 66.



Bockie Stein, Local No. 69.  
M. Schwartzberg, Local No. 81.  
Louis Wexler, Local No. 127.  
Mary Varden, Local No. 140.

Upon motion of Vice-President Kramer of Boston, the Convention extended an invitation to Vice-President David Gingold, Manager of the Waterproof Garment Workers' Union, Local No. 20, New York, to attend the sessions as guest of the Convention.

Delegate Israel Feinberg moved that special recognition be given to the Committee on Credentials for its work and that each member of the Committee be presented with a gold badge. The motion was carried.

Delegate Morris Blais, of Chicago, called attention to the lockout of the Millinery Workers of Chicago, and the Convention decided to send them a telegram of cheer and greeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 to reconvene at 9:30 Tuesday morning.

## RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were introduced, and they were assigned by the President to the various committees:

### Resolution No. 1

#### CALLING FOR A GENERAL DRESS STRIKE IN NEW YORK

Introduced by Dressmakers' Unions, Locals No. 22 and No. 89, New York.

WHEREAS, the forty-five thousand workers employed in the Dress Industry of Greater New York are, because of the predominant number of open shops, obliged to work under sweat shop conditions and are unable to provide a fair living for themselves and their families, and

WHEREAS, the last organization campaign conducted among these workers has definitely shown that the vast majority of them are ready to unite with their organized fellow workers for their mutual protection, and

WHEREAS, seasonal campaigns are totally inadequate to cope with this situation, and a General Strike is the only means whereby the Dress Industry can, and will be organized; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 20th Biennial Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. hereby reaffirms its decision to call a General Strike of the Dress Industry in New York at the

expiration of the present agreements, or immediately thereafter; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Incoming General Executive Board is hereby authorized and instructed to proceed with the preparation of the General Strike machinery for the efficient conduct and successful termination of the General Strike; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this Convention pledges to the New York Dressmakers all its available resources, and its readiness to do everything possible to assure for them a speedy and decisive victory.

For Local No. 89

LUIGI ANTONINI  
CARMELO LANDOLI  
FRANK OLIVO  
SANTO AVERSA  
LILLIE RAITANO

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

### Resolution No. 2

#### SEPARATE DRESS JOINT BOARD

Introduced by Dressmakers' Union Locals No. 22 and No. 89, New York.

WHEREAS, the Cloak, Suit and Dress Industries of New York, which are now administered by one Joint Board, are, notwithstanding their close relationships, two distinct and separate industries, and

WHEREAS, the control and jurisdiction of both these industries by one Joint Board is, because of the predominant number of Cloak locals, inevitably leading to the neglect and disadvantage of the dressmakers, and

WHEREAS, the increasing and intricate problems with which both industries are confronted makes it physically impossible for one administrative body to adequately conduct the affairs of both industries; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 20th Biennial Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. hereby approves and sanctions the creation of a separate Joint Board in the City of New York, comprising all the Local Unions, whose members are engaged in the Dress Industry; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Incoming General Executive Board is hereby authorized and instructed to proceed, in conjunction with the New York Dress Locals, to organize such a Joint Board as soon after the convention as it deems advisable.

For Local No. 89

LUIGI ANTONINI  
CARMELO LANDOLI  
FRANK OLIVO  
SANTO AVERSA  
LILLIE RAITANO

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

**Resolution No. 3**

**DRESSMAKERS' STRIKE FUND**

Introduced by the Delegation of Local No. 35, New York.

WHEREAS, the dressmakers who are a component part of the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers of New York, are again destined to measure forces with their employers for living conditions and human standards, and

WHEREAS, the New York Joint Board is again a strong and influential body, but not yet financially recovered from the Communist disaster, therefore in no position to finance a strike of such magnitude where thousands of workers will be involved, and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the New York Joint Board to see again a strong and powerful dressmakers' union with influence in the trade, so that the dressmakers are fully protected in their daily struggle for better living conditions; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this Convention decide on the creation of a special fund which should be used toward the inevitable strike of the dressmakers of New York.

Referred to Committee on Officers' Report.

**Resolution No. 4**

**CALLING DRESS STRIKE IN NEW YORK CITY**

Introduced by New York Joint Board of Cloak, Skirt, Dress and Reofer Mak-ers' Unions.

WHEREAS, due to the destructive activity of the Communists the dress industry of New York City has become completely demoralized, breaking down union standards and subjecting the workers to intolerable working conditions, and

WHEREAS, efforts at organization work carried on by the International during the past season have proven successful and shown the enthusiastic willingness of the dressmakers to rally around the International, and

WHEREAS, complete unionization of the New York dress industry and permanent maintenance of union standards can only be accomplished by means of a general strike; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that in the event of failure to replace the present agreement with one fully protecting the interests of the dressmakers through an amicable adjustment, this, the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U., authorizes the calling of a general dress strike in the New York Market.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

**Resolution No. 5**

**UNION LABOR ON EMBROIDERY**

Introduced by Local 66, New York.

BE IT RESOLVED that this 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. favor incorporation in any new agreement signed by the New York Dressmakers of a clause providing that no embroidery shall be made in any but union shops, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Executive Board shall install the Union Label in the Ladies' Garment industry, so that a Union worker, whether he is a cutter, dressmaker, cloakmaker, or an embroiderer, shall not work on any but Union-made garments, thereby solidifying and cementing our Union.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

**Resolution No. 6**

**REPRESENTATION AT CONVENTIONS**

Introduced by Delegation of Local No. 10, New York.

WHEREAS, the General Executive Board, in its appeal to the cloakmakers in June, 1929, prior to the general strike in New York, declared that "all reforms and resolutions in regard to representation at conventions . . . which have been proposed by some of our local unions, are questions which can be settled only at the convention, and we are confident that they will be taken up by the convention and settled to the satisfaction of the membership at large, and for the benefit and welfare of our Union," therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Section 3 of Article 2, of our Constitution be amended to read:

Local Unions with a membership of 100 or less to be represented at conventions by one delegate. Local Unions with a membership up to 500 to be represented by two delegates; Local Unions with a membership up to 1000 to be represented by three delegates; Local Unions with a membership of more than 1000, to be entitled to one delegate for every 1000 members, or portion thereof.

Referred to Committee on Law.

**Resolution No. 7**

**BASIS OF REPRESENTATION**

Introduced by Delegation of Local No. 9, New York.

WHEREAS, the present basis of representation in the Joint Board affords the smaller

locals proportionately greater representation than that of the Locals with larger membership, and

WHEREAS, the continuance of such a system makes it impossible for the membership to properly voice its views; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. amend the constitution of the International concerning representation in the Joint Board, as follows:

Locals affiliated with the Joint Board with a membership of 500 are entitled to one delegate.

Locals having a membership of 501 to 1000 are entitled to two (2) delegates.

Locals having a membership of more than 1000 are entitled to two (2) delegates for the first 1000 members and an additional delegate for each additional 1000 members.

Referred to Committee on Law.

#### Resolution No. 8 ON ELECTION OF GENERAL OFFICERS

Introduced by New York Joint Board, Cloak, Skirt, Dress and Reefer Makers' Union.

WHEREAS, it is generally argued that our membership is dissatisfied with the present laws calling for the election of our General Officers at conventions, and

WHEREAS, it is the consensus of opinion of the New York Joint Board that a change in the method of electing General Officers to a more democratic basis would tend to serve more effectively the welfare of our members and would cement their confidence in the Union, and

WHEREAS, the I. L. G. W. U., as a progressive organization, has always accepted the principle of a democratic form of organization; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. amend Sections 2, 3 and 4 of Article 3 of its Constitution, to read as follows:

Section No. 2—The President, General Secretary-Treasurer and General Executive Board shall be nominated at the convention and shall be elected by a referendum vote of all members of the I. L. G. W. U. The names of all nominees who receive a minimum of one-fourth of the votes cast by the convention shall appear on the ballot as candidates for the respective offices.

Section No. 3—The election shall be by ballot; those candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be considered elected. When there is but one candidate nominated for any office the election shall be an "aye" and "nay" ballot.

The term of office for all General Officers shall be for a period of two years and they shall hold their respective offices until their successors are duly elected and installed.

The referendum shall take place 30 days after adjournment of the convention.

Section No. 4—The convention shall elect a committee of 25 delegates representing the various ladies' garment centers to conduct the referendum vote.

Referred to Committee on Law.

#### Resolution No. 9 REFERENDUM FORM OF ELECTION

Introduced by Local 10, New York.

WHEREAS, our present method of electing members of the General Executive Board is based on selections made by delegates at biennial conventions, and

WHEREAS, common knowledge has shown that popular elections as practiced in the local unions makes it possible to gain the confidence of the workers, and

WHEREAS, we are now undergoing a period of reconstruction of our organization, making it most essential that we maintain and cement the confidence of all the workers affiliated with the I. L. G. W. U.; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. hereby adopts the referendum form of election and that names of candidates for members of the General Executive Board be submitted to the membership for popular vote, following the system of elections which prevails in local unions.

Referred to Committee on Law.

#### Resolution No. 10 ELECTION OF GENERAL OFFICERS

Introduced by Local No. 9, New York.

WHEREAS, the I. L. G. W. U. has recently been rebuilt, thanks to the General Executive Board's call for unification, and

WHEREAS, the International is in a stronger position as a result of the general strike which the International so successfully conducted, and

WHEREAS, the question of the method of electing general officers is of the utmost importance and has served in the past to create misunderstanding in our ranks; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 20th Biennial Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. amend our constitution so as to provide that all general officers be elected by a referendum vote of the entire membership.

Referred to Committee on Law.

**Resolution No. 11  
NOMINATION OF GENERAL  
OFFICERS**

Introduced by Delegates of Boston Locals and Joint Board.

WHEREAS, the system of electing our General Officers has been to elect them at our conventions, and

WHEREAS, there is a great sentiment and desire prevailing among the membership of the I. L. G. W. U. to do away with the present system of electing our General Officers at convention and instead to adopt the more popular and more democratic system of electing our officers through a referendum vote by the members; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this Convention adopt a law whereby our General President, General Secretary-Treasurer, and General Executive Board shall be nominated at the Convention and be elected through a referendum vote by the members; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that after such law is adopted, this 20th Biennial Convention shall proceed with having nominations for General President, General Secretary-Treasurer, and General Executive Board, and the names of all such candidates nominated shall be submitted for election through a referendum vote by the membership of the I. L. G. W. U.

Referred to Committee on Law.

**Resolution No. 12  
AMENDMENT ON ELECTION OF  
GENERAL OFFICERS**

Introduced by Local No. 3, New York.

WHEREAS, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, as a progressive organization has always encouraged democratic forms of administration in the belief that mandates given officers by the membership places the officers in a more responsible position, and

WHEREAS, it is the view of the great majority of the membership that its welfare demands closer relation between the members and their elected officers, and

WHEREAS, to obtain such closer relations a more direct form of electing officers is required, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. hereby amends Article 3, Sections, 2, 3 and 4 of its constitution to read as follows:

Section 2—The President, General Secretary-Treasurer and members of the General Executive Board shall be elected by a referendum vote of all members of the I. L. G. W. U.

Section 3—The terms of office for all general

officers shall be for a period of two years, and they shall hold their respective offices until their successors are duly elected and installed.

Section 4—The referendum for President and General Secretary-Treasurer and members of the General Executive Board shall take place not later than 30 days after the adjournment of the convention.

Referred to Committee on Law.

**Resolution No. 13  
RE-ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Introduced by Morris Cohen, H. Silverman, L. Rosenfelt, Marion Turco, Abraham Reiter, A. Dimini, Max Holman, Bernard Goldberg, Joseph Miller, Hyman Newman.

WHEREAS, it is the custom in our organization, that General Officers of our International Union are re-elected to office successively one term after another for quite a number of years, and

WHEREAS, such custom tends to create a feeling among our members that this leaves no room for others who are aspiring to run for office, and

WHEREAS, it is felt that for one person to hold office for too many terms in any given institution or organization, is not in accordance with the customs and principles of democratic form of government; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this Convention enact a law providing that no General Officer shall be permitted to run for office for re-election after having served two consecutive terms in office; and that such officer may run again for office only after one full term has elapsed after he or she has been out of office.

Referred to Committee on Law.

**Resolution No. 14  
AMENDMENT ON ELECTION OF GEN-  
ERAL OFFICERS**

Introduced by Dressmakers' Union Local No. 22, New York.

WHEREAS, the I. L. G. W. U. has repeatedly championed the cause of progressive legislation, both, as applied to the form of the government under which we live, as well as the administrative form of our own organization, and

WHEREAS, the existing method of choosing our General Officers is neither progressive nor truly democratic; a method with which the general membership is manifestly dissatisfied and discontented, and



WHEREAS, the direct election of our General Officers by the membership at large would at once establish a closer contact between the members and their officers, and support those whom they have, by their own votes, chosen as their leaders; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 29th Biennial Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. herewith amends Article No. 3, Section 2, 3, and 4 of its Constitution to read, to wit:

Section 2—"The President and General Secretary-Treasurer and General Executive Board shall be nominated at the Convention and elected by a referendum of all members of the I. L. G. W. U. The names of all those nominees who receive a minimum of one-fourth of the votes cast, shall appear on the ballot as candidates for President, General Secretary-Treasurer, and General Executive Board.

Section 3—"The terms of office for all General Officers shall be for a period of two years, and they shall hold their respective offices until their successors are duly elected and installed.

Section 4—"The referendum for President, General Secretary-Treasurer, and General Executive Board shall take place not later than 30 days after the adjournment of the Convention. The referendum vote shall be conducted by an Election Committee, consisting of 25 members, to be elected by the Convention and is to include representatives from the various garment centers throughout the States.

Referred to Committee on Law.

#### Resolution No. 15

#### AMENDMENT ON NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF GENERAL OFFICERS

Introduced by delegation of Local No. 35, New York.

WHEREAS, Local 35 at the 19th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. called on the delegates of the Convention to amend Sections 2, 3 and 4 of Article III of the Constitution of the International to read as follows: Section 2: The President, General Secretary-Treasurer and General Executive Board shall be nominated at the Convention and elected by a referendum vote of the members of the I. L. G. W. U.; the name of all nominees who received a minimum of one-fourth of the votes cast shall appear on the ballot as candidates for the respective offices, and

WHEREAS, since our last Convention, the situation in New York is entirely changed and the great credit for the change and the harmonious spirit prevailing today amongst the Members of the International in New York, is due to the influence of our former and present able leader, President Benjamin Schlesinger, and

WHEREAS, though the situation has changed and the members of Local 35 have given their undivided support toward the change, and are again imbued with the same spirit that, for the welfare of our International, its general officers be elected by a referendum vote; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the representatives of Local 35 reaffirm the position of our Local and are again asking this Convention to amend Sections 2, 3 and 4 of Article III and of the Constitution of the International.

Referred to Committee on Law.

#### Resolution No. 16

#### PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

Introduced by Boston Delegation, Joint Board and Locals.

WHEREAS, the system of representation as now provided for in the constitution of the I. L. G. W. U. is generally criticised as inadequate, and

WHEREAS, the problem of equal or proportional representation has for many years been a vital problem in our International, and

WHEREAS, prior to the calling of the last general strike of cloakmakers in New York City our General Executive Board, in a proclamation, declared that the question of proportional representation would be disposed of at our next convention; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. adopt a plan, which shall become part of our Constitution, whereby representation at conventions, joint boards or district councils shall be on a more equitable or more proportional basis than exists at present; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the new provisions shall have representation on the proportional membership of the local unions.

Referred to Committee on Law.

#### Resolution No. 17

#### REDUCTION OF NUMBER OF VICE-PRESIDENTS

Introduced by Local No. 10, New York.

WHEREAS, our present General Executive Board as now constituted consists of a president, a general secretary-treasurer and seventeen vice-presidents, and

WHEREAS, the number of vice-presidents has grown without need over the number elected in former years; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 20th Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union favors the reduction of the number of vice-presidents so that they shall not total more than thirteen.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

**Resolution No. 18**

**NEW YORK REPRESENTATION**

Introduced by Local No. 3, New York.

WHEREAS, the best interests of the I. L. G. W. U. will be served by as wide as possible representation on the General Executive Board; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. amends the Constitution so that no New York local unions shall have more than one of its members on the General Executive Board; and that the local unions of which the General President and General Secretary-Treasurer are members shall not have any of its members serve as vice-presidents; and that the rest of the members of the General Executive Board shall be apportioned among the out-of-town centers.

Referred to Committee on Law.

**Resolution No. 19**

**AMENDMENT ON REPRESENTATION**

Introduced by Dressmakers' Union Local No. 22, New York.

WHEREAS, the present form of representation at our Convention, in such, whereby the minority, instead of the majority, is oftentimes the deciding factor, and

WHEREAS, such conditions is contrary to all our professions of democracy, and distinctly unfair to the vast majority of dues paying members; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 20th Biennial Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. Amends Article 2, Section 3, of the Constitution of the I. L. G. W. U. to read:

"Local Unions with a membership of 300 or less to be represented at the conventions by two delegates; Local Unions with a membership up to 1000 to be represented by 3 delegates; Local Unions with a membership of more than 1000 to be entitled to one additional delegates for every thousand members or portion thereof.

The voting strength of each local delegation at the convention, on any and all questions, shall equal to the number of members it represents, equally apportioned between the delegates of each delegation."

Referred to Committee on Law.

**Resolution No. 20**

**PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION**

Introduced by delegation of Local No. 35, New York.

WHEREAS, the much debated question of proportional delegates to the conventions of

the I. L. G. W. U. has been for many years an issue which has caused misunderstandings among the ranks of the membership of our International; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 20th Bi-Annual Convention of the International modifies its constitution pertaining to the representation of the International Conventions, so that it serves the best interests of the members of our International.

Referred to Committee on Law.

**Resolution No. 21**

**PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION**

Introduced by Local No. 9, New York.

WHEREAS, the present method of electing delegates to the conventions of the International affords to the smaller locals proportionately a greater representation than that afforded to the larger locals, and

WHEREAS, such a method of electing delegates serves to deprive the majority of the membership of an opportunity to voice their views in the law-making body of our International, and

WHEREAS, the Convention, which is the highest authority in our International, should make possible the fullest democratic expression of the majority of our membership; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this, the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U., hereby amends the constitution of the International so as to grant the majority of the membership their full right of expression and representation."

Referred to Committee on Law.

**Resolution No. 22**

**AMENDMENT ON DEFRAYING OF EXPENSES**

Introduced by Local No. 3, New York.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 20th Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union amends Article 2, Section 8 of its constitution, to wit:

The expenses of delegates to the convention shall be paid by the local unions which they represent. If local unions are financially unable to defray the expenses of their delegates, the General Executive Board shall have the power to pay the expenses of each such local union.

The president, first vice-president and general secretary-treasurer shall be regular delegates to the convention only when duly nominated and elected by their respective local unions.

Referred to Committee on Law.

**Resolution No. 23  
REFERENDUM SYSTEM**

Introduced by Local No. 80, Boston, Mass.

WHEREAS, the manifesto issued by our General President in December of 1928 has met with the full approval of the members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and

WHEREAS, Local No. 80, at a special meeting, instructed its two delegates to the convention to vote for the referendum system; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that in the interests of democratic procedure in the affairs of the I. L. G. W. U., the 20th Convention of the International favors installation of the referendum system.

Referred to Committee on Law.

**Resolution No. 24  
DUES ARREARS**

Introduced by Local No. 3, New York.

WHEREAS, the very basis of our financial and moral strength is based on the payment of dues obligations to the union; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 20th Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union hereby amends Article 10, Section 10, of its constitution to read:

Section 10. Members who have failed to pay dues for a period of 26 weeks shall be automatically expelled from the union.

Referred to Committee on Law.

**Resolution No. 25  
RE-ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP**

Introduced by delegation of Local No. 80, Boston, Mass.

WHEREAS, Section 12 of our Constitution, dealing with individual cards, reads that following the lapse of one year or more after withdrawal of a member he can be readmitted only as a new member, and shall pay an initiation fee not exceeding the one that prevailed at the time of his withdrawal, and

WHEREAS, a member pays all his obligations to his respective local, and in order that no friction shall arise upon his return to his respective local; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Section No. 12 on withdrawals be amended so that a person who has withdrawn for one year upon return to his organization be given a union book on the purchase of one dues stamp.

Referred to Committee on Law.

**Resolution No. 26  
EXPULSION OF MEMBERS**

Introduced by Local No. 9, New York.

WHEREAS, the expulsion policy has led the Union to very serious results, and

WHEREAS, it is an established fact that the Union to properly represent its members, the entire membership should be united to the cause of the organization; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that a member of the Union shall not be expelled from the organization for his or her opinion and conviction.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

**Resolution No. 27  
RE-ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP**

Introduced by Local No. 9, New York.

WHEREAS, the manifesto of the General Executive Board has led the greatest number of former members to rejoin our Union, and

WHEREAS, the last general strike inspired most of those who stayed away to again affiliate with the organization, and

WHEREAS, there are still some workers who were active in our Union in years gone by and who have not as yet realized the importance of rejoining; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that all those who will return to the organization on or before the first day of January in the year of 1930 and against whom there are no charges of rebelling, shall be granted membership with the rights and privileges of all other members of the union.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

**Resolution No. 28  
CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT**

Introduced by Boston Joint Board and Locals.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the last paragraph of Article No. 14 of our Constitution, which reads: "Such amendments or repeals shall take effect thirty (30) days after date of this convention," be stricken from our Constitution.

Referred to Committee on Law.

**Resolution No. 29  
ASSISTANCE FOR AGED PIONEERS**

Introduced by the following delegates: George Rubin, Local No. 71; Benjamin Israel, Local No. 71; Beckie Stein, Local

No. 69; Ralph Donato, Local No. 47; M. Domskey, Local No. 40; Meyer Shamls, Local No. 40; Abraham Bloomfield, Local No. 50; Abo Golden, Local No. 40; Mary Levin, Local No. 50; Samuel Rudin, Local No. 40; Elias Reisberg, Local No. 50; Ph. Kramer, Local No. 73; L. Friend, Local No. 26; M. Bialis, Chicago Joint Board; Isaac Posen, Local No. 46, Abr. Snyder, Local No. 62; Otto Pick, Local No. 3; B. Fenster, Local No. 3; H. Rufer, Local No. 59; Samuel Freedman, Local No. 20.

WHEREAS, some of the members of our International have devoted the best part of their lives to the upbuilding of our great Union and have given it loyal, unselfish and honorable service, and

WHEREAS, it is an accepted policy of all social institutions that those who have served them faithfully in their young days should be provided for in their old age, so that they may not be forced into the degradation of becoming public charges, and

WHEREAS, some of the founders of our International, who have occupied the most responsible positions in our Union, are at present without any means of earning a livelihood—some because of old age, and others because their training in our movement has fitted them only for trade union work and made it impossible for them to adapt themselves to any other kind of work, and

WHEREAS, a labor union cannot afford to act like cold-blooded employers who throw their aged workers out into the street which is contrary to our own preaching and the

principles of the American labor movement, and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the trade union movement to set an example to all social organizations by providing its pioneers with the means of a livelihood when they become old and incapacitated; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, in order to do justice to our needy pioneers and to encourage our younger members to loyal service to the International, that this 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. instruct the incoming General Executive Board to employ for its organization work such of our aged pioneers as are still capable of rendering such services and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the incoming G. E. B. be instructed to make provisions for those who are physically incapable of further work by appropriating for them a weekly allowance which will make their path easier.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

#### Resolution No. 30

#### CHARTER OF LOCAL NO. 2

Introduced by Local No. 2—A Student, Nathan Hines, Bernard Gollo, A. Rosenberg, Israel Feinberg, Harry Chancer.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. held at Cleveland, Ohio, to change the charter of Local No. 2, so that it will be known in the future as the CLOAK AND SUIT OPERATORS UNION, Local No. 1 with all the rights and privileges existing prior to the revocation of Local No. 1's charter in 1924.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

## Second Day—Tuesday Morning Session

Cleveland, Ohio, December 3, 1929

The convention was called to order at 10 o'clock by President Schlesinger.

President Schlesinger read the following telegram received from former president, Morris Sigman:

#### Telegram

Benjamin Schlesinger, President International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Convention in session, Public Auditorium, Cleveland, O.

Thanks for invitation to address Convention. I would be very happy if I could speak in person and relate the

struggle the loyal members of our International and the General Executive Board had to go through together with me during my presidency in order to rid it of the Communist traitors and other vandals who were seeking to undermine and destroy our International. It would be my greatest pleasure to be able to speak to the convention of the great aid that the general labor movement, particularly the American Federation of Labor, and the Jewish Daily Forward have rendered us in the struggle to bring back sanity and responsibility in the trade union movement and to rehabilitate our great International. Many



of us still carry the scars on their souls and pain in their hearts, but the cause was worth the price. I am sorry, due to serious illness, I cannot appear to express my thoughts and feelings in a more elaborate way at the Convention. Please accept and convey to the delegates sincerest congratulations and best wishes for still greater moral, idealistic and industrial accomplishments in the future. Long live our International Union. Long live the American Labor Movement.

MORRIS SIGMAN.

Prolonged applause followed the reading of the telegram.

Telegram from Mr. A. Epstein, Secretary American Association for Old Age Security:

"American Association for Old Age Security sends you heartiest greetings and best wishes. Deeply appreciating splendid help given by officers of the I. L. G. W. U. we plead for continuation of support in order that the terror of old age may be removed. We need help of the I. L. G. W. in order to enact good law in New York in 1930.

A. EPSTEIN, Secretary."

Upon motion of First Vice-President Salvatore Ninfo this telegram was referred to the Committee on Old Age Pension by President Schlesinger, after the motion was carried.

#### Death of Abraham Bisno

PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER: I have a telegram here which was not addressed to the convention but to the officers. I certainly would rather not have received it, and I am sure you will feel the same way when you know its contents. It announces the death of a man who has been with our movement longer than I have, more than forty years. As a matter of fact, the first instruction on Unionism, the first that I ever heard about the necessity of cloak-makers organizing was from that man.

We now have a message stating that that man, Abraham Bisno of Chicago,

is dead. He has worked for our organization in New York and Chicago on many occasions. I think it is no more than appropriate that all of the delegates rise for a minute in honor of this Brother.

(The delegates arose in respect to the memory of Abraham Bisno.)

I have here a short letter which I received from one of our very intimate friends, a friend of our organization, a friend of the trade union movement, and a leader in the Socialist movement, Comrade Norman Thomas. He was to have been here at this convention. I understand he was one of a committee of two from the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party who were appointed to bring greetings to our convention. I shall read you the letter.

Letter From Norman Thomas

November 29, 1929.

Dear Comrade Schlesinger:

Here I am hurrying to Texas when I should much rather be bound for Cleveland and the I. L. G. W. U. Convention. But I must keep speaking dates of long standing and trust to this letter and a telegram which I shall send next Thursday to bear my greetings.

First let me congratulate you and all the members of the Union on its remarkable recovery of strength, especially as the result of the cloakmakers' strike. That is one of the three or four most encouraging things in the field of social progress in the year.

Next let me hope that you will go from strength to strength in the wise and sound organization of every branch of your industry in every city.

Finally may I tell you how I look to you—all of your members—to take up again pioneer work for the organization of the workers on the political field. We do not want a Socialist or labor party to run the unions; we do not want unions to run the party. But a political party, Socialist in principles and program, will be very weak without strong industrial organization of the workers. And every day's news shows how weak

are unions which must bargain with two old parties belonging to the bosses. The struggle against injunctions and injunction judges, the struggle against unemployment, against tyranny and oppression, against war itself, requires our own party. Our own self-respect requires our own party. Recent events show signs of weakening. Let us press on with courage.

In my own name, in the name of the League for Industrial Democracy, above all in the name of the Socialist Party, I send congratulations to you, my friend, and to the Union. And with the congratulations I send word of my hope for the future we yet shall build.

Fraternally yours,

NORMAN THOMAS.

Upon motion of Delegate Louis Pan-kin (Local No. 10) it was decided to spread this letter upon the minutes of the convention.

#### J. Weinberg Addresses Convention

President Schlesinger: I told you yesterday that we would have with us this morning a man who not only represents an organization that is very friendly and intimate with our International Union, but who is also a great friend of every delegate here.

All of us—even our Italian brothers—know that "Arbeiter Ring" is the Jewish name for "Workmen's Circle." When our organization was actually in its worst days, the Workmen's Circle came to our assistance not only morally but financially. During our strikes as well as during the recent trouble that we had in eliminating the element which tried to disrupt our organization, the Workmen's Circle helped us much indeed.

I believe that we owe it to the Workmen's Circle to express to it our sincerest appreciation.

I take great pleasure in presenting to you Joseph Weinberg, President of the Workmen's Circle.

**JOSEPH WEINBERG:** The National Executive Committee of the Workmen's Circle delegated me as its representative

to the Convention you held in Boston in 1928 to extend a message of greeting and encouragement in your forthcoming struggles. You in turn, delegated your Acting President Dubinsky to greet our Convention, held in Chicago this year, and to express the gratitude that you felt we deserved, as well as to convey to us the joyous message that the International is being rebuilt and rejuvenated.

Today, I come here not so much to extend messages of encouragement, but to express our great joy and gratification at the victory you have gained in the general strike of the cloakmakers in New York.

I know that on many occasions you have been concerned about giving relief to those of your members who were in dire straits financially or physically. But evidently you have found this task too difficult. I believe that this sort of work is altogether not in your province. It is the work of a fraternal organization.

The Workmen's Circle as a fraternal organization of workers has a special interest in preferring unionists as members. The improved economic condition of union workers makes them better insurance risks. Higher wages, better working and living conditions, mean healthier workers, so they do not become a burden upon us as would otherwise be the case. You, on the other hand, have a parallel interest in seeing that your members join the Workmen's Circle, since in that way you are relieved of the necessity for caring and providing for the private wants of your workers. May I ask you, Brother President and delegates, to adopt a resolution to this effect.

And now permit me to say a few words about your own affairs. Let me commiserate with the delegates from out of town, who were not fortunate enough to be in New York when the general strike of the cloakmakers took place. It was an exhilarating experience to witness the extraordinary enthusiasm and devotion displayed by the workers to their leaders and their organization. Remember that the strike

took place during the hottest days of a hot summer. Nevertheless, the halls were packed to capacity, the sidewalks of New York swarmed with pickets, and the strike committees were beehives of activity. Many expressed their belief that all this was a miracle. But we, of course, do not believe in miracles. No miracle would have availed if your leadership had not been so competent and your membership so devoted and determined to have a Union.

I say this not because I feel there is any necessity to heap further encouragement upon you, but because my heart is full of joy and I wish to congratulate you on your extraordinary achievement. I am certain that the Workmen's Circle will support you in the future as it has done in the past and will help you in all your struggles.

It is with these feelings and in this sense that I greet you and wish you every success. (Applause.)

A motion by Brother Benjamin Moser (local No. 2) to extend the thanks of the Convention to the President of the Workmen's Circle, and a suggestion by Brother Benjamin Kaplan that his address be spread on the minutes of the Convention was put to a vote and enthusiastically adopted.

**VICE-PRESIDENT DUBINSKY** read the following resolution which was unanimously carried by a rising vote and amid great applause:

#### Resolution on the Workmen's Circle

WHEREAS, the Workmen's Circle has been outstanding in its devotion to the cause of labor and has assisted our Union in all its struggles, including the last general strike of cloakmakers in New York City, and

WHEREAS, the Workmen's Circle has at all times shown its readiness to help advance the cause of labor and elevate the working masses, and

WHEREAS, the Workmen's Circle, as an organization for mutual relief, is one of the most important and useful in the labor movement; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that this 20th Convention

of the I. L. G. W. U. recommend that the incoming General Executive Board issue an appeal to all of our members throughout the United States and Canada to join the Workmen's Circle, for their own advantage as well as for the benefit of the labor movement as a whole; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that our local unions and our general officers give every possible assistance to the Workmen's Circle in its campaign to enlist new members; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this convention express recognition and extend its heartfelt gratitude to the Workmen's Circle for the assistance it has given our International.

Delegate A. Rolter (Local No. 12), asked why the report of the General Executive Board to the convention does not contain the appeal which was issued by the International and the Joint Board of the New Work Cloakmakers' Union to the workers in the cloakmaking industry of New York before the strike was called.

**VICE-PRESIDENT DUBINSKY:** After carefully reading the report of the General Executive Board, last night, I found that various documents were not included in it. Some of these documents are of great importance to our Union, while other could be omitted. But I found that among the documents left out is one which I consider as the most important in the recent developments of our Union, and this is the very same document to which Brother Rolter just referred, namely, the appeal of the General Executive Board to the cloakmakers of the City of New York a few days prior to the strike.

I think the appeal was omitted through error on the part of the person who prepared the report of the General Executive Board. I therefore move that the report of the General Executive Board be corrected and the appeal made part thereof.

The motion was seconded and carried.

The document referred to herein above is appended in this final issue of

the Report of the General Executive Board and the Convention proceedings

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** Vice President Kramer will read the report of the Committee on Rules and Regulations. We will adopt each rule separately.

Rules No. 1 to No. 22 inclusive were adopted as presented by the committee.

The action on Rule No. 23 was as follows:

**VICE PRESIDENT BRESLAU:** I wish to amend this rule. I wish to have the word "election" stricken out, and to make the rule read that we have our nominations the last day of the convention instead of on Friday afternoon.

Vice-President Breslau's amendment was indorsed by Delegate Nagler and Vice-President Amdur.

**VICE-PRESIDENT HOCHMAN:** I think the last day of the convention is too vague. I move we amend this rule to read "the last day of the convention," unless that time is postponed by a two-thirds vote of the convention.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** It is simply a question of what day we shall take up nominations and elections. We cannot decide anything about striking out the word "election" until we have heard the report of the Law Committee.

**VICE-PRESIDENT BIALIS:** I move that this rule be postponed until we have heard and acted upon the report of the Law Committee.

Delegate Nagler seconded the motion and it was carried.

The last rule No. 24 was then read and the report as a whole was adopted. The Committee on Rules and Regulations was discharged with the thanks of the convention.

#### Report of Rules Committee

Your Committee on Rules and Regulations recommends the adoption of the following rules by which the Convention shall be guided:

**Rule No. 1.** The Convention shall be called to order at 9:30 a. m. and remain in session until 12:30 p. m. It shall convene at 2:00 p. m. and remain in session until 5 p. m., except on Saturday, on which day the session shall be from 9:30 a. m. until the hour of adjournment.

**Rule No. 2.** The main floor of the Convention shall be reserved for the delegates only.

**Rule No. 3.** Visitors shall be permitted on the balcony and space permitted on the floor. Special guests shall be escorted to the platform.

**Rule No. 4.** If a delegate, while speaking, is called to order he shall, at the request of the chair, take a seat until the question or order is decided.

**Rule No. 5.** Should two or more delegates rise to speak at the same time, the chair shall decide who is entitled to the floor.

**Rule No. 6.** No delegate shall interrupt another in his remarks, except to call him to a point of order.

**Rule No. 7.** A delegate shall not speak more than once on the same question without the permission of the Convention.

**Rule No. 8.** Speeches shall be limited to ten minutes, but the time of speaking may be extended by vote of the Convention.

**Rule No. 9.** A motion shall not be opened for discussion until it has been seconded and stated from the chair.

**Rule No. 10.** When a question is pending before the Convention, no motion shall be in order except to adjourn, to refer, or the previous question, to postpone indefinitely, to postpone for a certain time, or to amend, which motions shall have preference in the order made.

**Rule No. 11.** A motion to reconsider shall not be entertained unless made by two delegates who voted in the majority and shall receive a two-thirds vote of the Convention.

**Rule No. 12.** The reports of committees shall be subject to amendments and substitutes on the floor of the Conven-



tion, the same as the other motions and resolutions.

Rule No. 13. It shall require at least fifteen delegates to move the previous question.

Rule No. 14. All resolutions shall bear the signature of the introducer and the name of the organization he or she represents and shall be in duplicate.

Rule No. 15. No debate shall be declared closed until the maker of the motion has had the privilege of the floor.

Rule No. 16. After the previous question has been put and decided upon, the parties involved in the particular question shall be permitted to speak in their own behalf.

Rule No. 17. When a roll-call vote has been ordered, no adjournment shall take place until the result has been announced.

Rule No. 18. When a delegate addresses the Convention in any other than the English language, the main points of his remarks shall be translated by the chairman or any other delegate appointed by the Chair and recorded in the minutes.

Rule No. 19. Registration cards shall be furnished at each session. Any delegate not registered within fifteen minutes after the Convention is called to order shall be marked absent and the list of absentees shall be printed in the daily proceedings.

Rule No. 20. Roll-call may be called upon any question at the request of not less than fifteen delegates from five different locals.

Rule No. 21. Cushing's Manual Rules of Order shall be the guide on all matters not here provided.

Rule No. 22. The delegates shall retain the same seats all through the Convention assigned to them during the first session of the Convention.

Rule No. 23. (Before amendment) The afternoon session beginning with 2 p. m. on Friday, December 6th, 1929, shall be devoted to the nomination and election of general officers and delegates to the A. F. of L. Convention.

Rule No. 24. The Chairman shall have

the power to order night sessions in order to expedite the work of the Convention, which is to continue for one week only.

LUIGI ANTONINI, Chairman  
 PHILIP KRAMER, Secretary.  
 B. GOLUB.  
 B. ROSENBERG.  
 ROSE MIRSKY.  
 MAX CAROLINSKY.  
 ISADORE JACOBS.  
 MAX GRACK N.  
 JOE MAGISTRO.  
 A. COTTONE.  
 H. COHEN.  
 FANNIE BRAMER.  
 MOE FLAUM.  
 MORRIS GREIFER.  
 PETER LICCAUSI.  
 G. DINOLA.  
 MARY FISHER.  
 MORRIS ELSBERG.  
 FLORENCE PETTIE.

VICE-PRESIDENT HOCHMAN: I move that we set a time-limit, until six o'clock this evening, when all resolutions must be in the hands of the Resolutions Committee.

PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER: I believe we should add to that motion that resolutions may be presented to the Committee after that time only by the unanimous consent of the convention.

VICE-PRESIDENT ANTONINI: I second the motion as amended.

The motion was put to a vote and carried.

The Convention adjourned at twelve-twenty until 9:30 Wednesday morning, the afternoon session being omitted, to enable the committees to work on the resolutions.

#### Resolution No. 31 COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA

Introduced by delegation of Local No. 80, Boston, Mass.

WHEREAS, there are at the present time a number of former members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union who are still under the influence of false statements spread by Communist propaganda, and

WHEREAS, these members are being awayed from joining the union by continued malicious activities of unscrupulous persons, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. appoint a committee to visit the various ladies' garment centers, study the facts and sources of this propaganda, and report their findings to the General Executive Board.

Referred to the Committee on Officers' Report.

**Resolution No. 32**

**POLITICAL PRISONERS IN RUSSIA**

Introduced by the Chicago Delegation.

WHEREAS, there are thousands of political prisoners incarcerated in the jails of Russia, and

WHEREAS, they have been imprisoned solely because they insist on exercising their right to criticize the policies of the Soviet government, and

WHEREAS, the rights of free speech, free assembly and free press are rights for which the labor movement of the entire world has always given battle; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the 20th Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union assembled in Cleveland, Ohio, condemns the imprisonment of the Russian political prisoners and calls upon the Russian government to open the jail doors for them immediately.

Referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

**Resolution No. 33**

**MACHINE PRESSERS**

Introduced by the delegation of Local No. 35, New York.

WHEREAS, the pressing trade is being confronted with the introduction of a pressing machine whose function is to reduce the pressers' working period to such proportion that his economic well-being is totally threatened, and

WHEREAS, the presser, by working long hours on said machine becomes after a few years of work, rheumatic and disabled, since his nose and lungs become affected by the steam coming from said machine, and his feet become impaired as a result of his continual stepping on the pedal of said machine, and

WHEREAS, to solve the problem of the pressing machine to the economic advantage and preservation of the pressers' health, a

change in working hours for the machine presser is urgently necessary; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that since the operation of the pressing machine by one man is depriving on the average of 2½ regular pressers by hand of employment, and since the pressing machine is impairing the health of the presser, that this Convention instruct the incoming General Executive Board that wherever a new agreement is negotiated and the pressing machine is involved, a schedule of a 20-hour working week be inaugurated for that particular craft and the wages for the machine presser to be in accordance with the wage of the average presser.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

**Resolution No. 34**

**TECHNOLOGICAL UNEMPLOYMENT**

Introduced by the delegation of Local No. 59, Chicago, Ill.

WHEREAS, the problem of the introduction of the tackling, felling, and edge-basting machinery has been taken up on various occasions, and no solution found, and

WHEREAS, the number of our members suffering from this problem is increasing daily because the employers are utilizing the opportunity to eliminate as many workers as possible; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this 20th Biennial Convention, appoint a committee representative of the various centers and branches of the trade directly involved in and suffering from the introduction of such machinery; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this committee shall immediately proceed to study and find a workable solution of the grave problem which has already affected a great number of our membership.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

**Resolution No. 35**

**SOUTHERN TEXTILE WORKERS**

Introduced by the Chicago Delegation.

WHEREAS, the textile workers of the Southern states are forced to work under conditions of hours, wages and lack of sanitary provisions which are generally agreed to be abominable and far below the meanest standards of American life, and

WHEREAS, the American Federation of Labor has decided to capitalize the growing revolt against these conditions by instituting a wide-spread organization campaign in every mill center in the South; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the International Ladies'

Garment Workers' Union, in its 20th Convention assembled, in Cleveland, Ohio, pledge its moral and financial support to this great organization crusade and instruct its incoming General Executive Board to carry out this mandate.

Referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

**Resolution No. 36  
RELEASE OF MOONEY AND  
BILLINGS**

Introduced by the delegation of Local No. 10, New York.

WHEREAS, additional evidence has recently come to light further proving the complete innocence of Tom Mooney and Warren K. Billings of the crime for which they are serving life terms in California penitentiaries, and

WHEREAS, in view of this evidence it would be the greatest injustice to continue the imprisonment of two men who sacrificed many years of their lives because of their beliefs in the cause of labor; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 20th Convention of the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union urge the American Federation of Labor to continue to use its good offices to obtain the release of Mooney and Billings; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that we urge the American Federation of Labor to appeal at this time to the proper authorities to the end that justice may be done these two men.

Referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

**Resolution No. 37  
APPRECIATION OF A. F. OF L. AND  
THE LABOR MOVEMENT**

Introduced by the Joint Board Cloak, Skirt, Dress and Reefer Makers' Union of New York.

WHEREAS, the successful termination of the general strike of the cloakmakers in New York City, has served to mark the beginning of the revival of the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union and all its affiliated locals, and

WHEREAS, this great victory could not have been achieved without the generous aid and assistance given us by the American Federation of Labor, the labor movement in general and the locals of the I. L. G. W. U. in particular; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. hereby express its warmest appreciation to the American Federation

of Labor, the locals of the International and all other factors who, financially and otherwise, made the success of the general strike of the New York Joint Board possible.

Referred to the Committee on Officers' Report.

**Resolution No. 38  
EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT**

Introduced by the Delegation of Local No. 35, New York.

WHEREAS, our Executive Board consisting of laymen is convinced that the Educational Department of the International has not brought the desired result, though much energy and money has been consumed in maintaining that department, and

WHEREAS, it was the intention of our International that the Educational Department, when first established, teach our members trade unionism and develop the more qualified into leaders for our organization, and

WHEREAS, all the efforts put into the Educational Department were unsuccessful for no other reason than, that instead of teaching our members trade unionism, they taught dogmas which were of no practical use to our International, and

WHEREAS, educational work amongst our members is necessary, for it elevates them to a better understanding of their economic interest, and helps them to perceive the value and purpose of their International; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this Convention instruct the incoming General Executive Board to reorganize the Educational Department, so that it teach our members trade unionism and not dogmas; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that should the incoming General Executive Board not be in a position to reorganize that Department as such, the Board should have the power to dissolve the Educational Department entirely.

Referred to Committee on Education.

**Resolution No. 39  
OLD AGE PENSION**

Introduced by the Chicago Delegation.

WHEREAS, economic independence in old age is becoming increasingly more difficult, and

WHEREAS, it is well known that in view of the rising standard of living the wages received by a workingman are utterly inadequate to enable him to lay by sufficiently for his non-productive years, and

WHEREAS, in no industrial country on earth are such difficulties confronting the

masses of workers as in the United States, because all civilized nations have already developed scientific and comprehensive methods for taking care of their dependent aged in the form of Old Age Pensions; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in convention assembled, hereby call upon Congress and the Senate of United States for the establishment of an Old Age Pension Fund.

Referred to Committee on Benefits.

#### Resolution No. 40

#### BOSTON ORGANIZATION CAMPAIGN

Introduced by the Delegates of the Boston Joint Board of the Boston Locals.

**WHEREAS**, working conditions in the cloak and dress industry of Boston have, during the last 18 months seriously deteriorated, while during the same period the number of workers and shops in the industry have grown, creating a large number of sweat-shops and sweat-shop conditions, and

**WHEREAS**, the present agreement in both the cloak and dress industries of Boston expire on February 15th, 1930, and

**WHEREAS**, the present situation makes it impossible to think of renewing agreements only with those employers now in contractual relations with the Union, since, in order to establish Union conditions in our shops we must organize the vast number of workers in the non-union shops who are undermining the standards of the entire industry, and

**WHEREAS**, the general organization of the market can only be accomplished by a general strike, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that this 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. instruct the incoming General Executive Board to do everything possible to assist the Boston Joint Board and its affiliated locals in carrying on an intensive organization campaign among the unorganized cloak and dress workers, and call a general strike in the Boston Cloak and dress industry immediately upon expiration of the present agreements.

Referred to the Committee on Organization.

#### Resolution No. 41

#### BOSTON RAINCOAT WORKERS

Introduced by the Delegations of Locals 20, 24, 54 and 102, of New York, Boston, Chicago and Montreal, respectively.

**WHEREAS**, the City of Boston and vicinity has over 5,000 workers employed in the raincoat industry, and

**WHEREAS**, the conditions under which these workers labor are far below the standards set by the organized labor movement and by the community at large, and

**WHEREAS**, Local No. 20, raincoat makers, of the City of New York, and Local No. 24, of Boston, have made serious attempts to organize these workers and have subsidized these efforts to their full financial capacity, without having achieved the desired results, and

**WHEREAS**, Locals 20 and 24 are not in a position to continue financing the organization work so greatly needed, and

**WHEREAS**, continued low standards in the raincoat industry of Boston are undermining the working conditions of the organized waterproof raincoat makers of the entire nation; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the incoming General Executive Board, immediately upon adjournment of this 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U., assign an organizer who shall have jurisdiction over all organization work among the raincoat workers of Boston and vicinity, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this organizing work be financed by the International.

Referred to the Committee on Organization.

#### Resolution No. 42

#### CHICAGO RAINCOAT WORKERS

Introduced by Local 54, Chicago.

**WHEREAS**, the raincoat makers of Local No. 54, Chicago, have been forced to contend with serious problems raised by the presence in the same city of a number of open shops, and

**WHEREAS**, the local has expended much energy and money in an effort to organize these shops, but without success, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the incoming General Executive Board be instructed by this 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. to assist, financially as well as morally, in the continued efforts to organize these shops.

Referred to the Committee on Organization.

#### Resolution No. 43

#### MIDDLE-WEST RAINCOAT WORKERS

Introduced by Locals Nos. 20, 24, 54 and 85.

**WHEREAS**, the Middle West has become an increasingly important center for the manufacture of waterproof garments, and

**WHEREAS**, the standards and conditions



of labor among the unorganized raincoat workers of the Middle West constitute a direct danger to the maintenance of standards in the manufacturing centers of Chicago and other cities; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the incoming General Executive Board, on adjournment of this convention, assign an organizer to work among the raincoat workers of the Middle West.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

#### Resolution No. 44

##### EASTERN RAINCOAT WORKERS

Introduced by Locals Nos. 20, 24, 54 and 102.

**WHEREAS**, the raincoat industry has grown rapidly in New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania, and particularly in towns and cities near New York, and

**WHEREAS**, Local No. 20, raincoat makers of New York City, have invested much effort and money in attempts to organize these raincoat-making centers; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that an organizer be assigned to the Eastern Out-of-Town organization department who shall have supervision of organization work among the raincoat workers in the territory indicated above.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

#### Resolution No. 45

##### UNION LABEL IN RAINCOAT INDUSTRY

Introduced by Locals Nos. 20, 24, 54 and 95.

**WHEREAS**, the union label has been used very effectively in helping enforce union labor standards in a number of industries, and

**WHEREAS**, the water-proof garment industry is greatly in need of readjustment in the direction of meeting the just demands for the creation and maintenance of union standards, and

**WHEREAS**, we feel that the union label could be easily and successfully introduced into the organized water-proof garment industry; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the incoming General Executive Board of the I. L. G. W. U. be instructed by this Convention to take steps for the introduction of the union label in the raincoat industry.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

#### Resolution No. 46

##### OUT OF TOWN DEPARTMENT

Introduced by Local No. 35, New York.

**WHEREAS**, the out-of-town department, when first organized under the former and present leader, President Benjamin Schlesinger, worked to the full benefit and satisfaction of the New York Joint Board, for its management was subject to criticism and supervision of policy, and

**WHEREAS**, in the years of turmoil and general discontent that department labored in the most inefficient way, for there were none to see to it that it function properly, and

**WHEREAS**, the present change in the situation for a new agreement which calls for one hundred percent of organization between the New York Joint Board of the Cloak and Dressmakers and the other factors in the trade, that department must be re-established so that its effectiveness is felt throughout the industry, and

**WHEREAS**, the New York Joint Board would again be willing to help in the working of the out-of-town department against unfair competition, thus safeguarding the interest of all members identified with the International and the Joint Board; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that this Convention instruct the incoming General Executive Board to reorganize the out-of-town department, and a system of its workings be formulated by the General Executive Board, together with the New York Joint Board of the Cloak and Dressmakers' Union.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

#### Resolution No. 47

##### ORGANIZING BOSTON CLOAK INDUSTRY

Introduced by Robert Trehub, Secretary of the Boston Delegation.

**WHEREAS**, the Cloak Industry in Boston is at present disorganized and finds itself in a state of chaos and demoralization due to the upheaval and destructive methods of the Communists, carried on for the last year and a half, and

**WHEREAS**, the cloakmakers of Boston, who enjoyed union conditions for a number of years, are now working under the most intolerable sweat-shop conditions; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that this Convention instruct the incoming General Executive Board to do everything possible to help the Joint Board of Boston carry on an extensive organization campaign in the cloak industry and enable

our workers to enjoy union conditions and make a better living in the cloak industry.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

**Resolution No. 48**

**NEW JERSEY OFFICE**

Introduced by Florence Pettie, Local No. 134.

WHEREAS, unorganized out-of-town shops constitute a menace to the New York Unions and eventually to the standards in the entire industry, and

WHEREAS, we workers in the city of Hackensack, N. J., have a local union, No. 134, which has always stood by the side of the International and the New York locals whenever they were in need of assistance, as in the case of the Shapiro and Sons fight which was won through the assistance of the Hackensack local union, and

WHEREAS, since 1920, beginning with the advent of the Communist disruptionists, Local 134 has suffered, particularly through the closing of the New Jersey office, to the extent of losing necessary contacts with the International; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. instruct the Incoming General Executive office as it existed prior to 1920 to the end that the unorganized workers in the New Jersey territory may be brought into the fold of the International union.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

**Resolution No. 49**

**MIDDLE WEST ORGANIZATION CAMPAIGN**

Introduced by Chicago Delegation.

WHEREAS, various cities in the Middle West and the West, such as Kansas City, Kansas, Portland, Oregon, and several others, have recently become cloak and dress manufacturing centers, and

WHEREAS, these centers are not organized, which makes them a menace to the Chicago market; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 20th Biennial Convention instruct the Incoming General Executive Board, as expeditiously as possible, to start an extensive organization campaign for the purpose of organizing the workers employed in the ladies' garment industry in the above unorganized centers.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

**Resolution No. 50**

**ORGANIZING MONTREAL**

Introduced by A. Kirzner, Joint Board, Toronto; S. Abrahams, Local No. 14, Toronto; S. Krisman, Local No. 92, Toronto; A. Eaton, Local No. 19, Montreal.

WHEREAS, the Cloak and Suit industry of Canada is about equally divided between Montreal and Toronto, and

WHEREAS, competition between the cloak industries of these two cities is keen, and organization of labor in one city requires simultaneous organization of the workers in the other, and

WHEREAS, an active organization campaign preparatory to a general strike is now in progress in the city of Toronto; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. instruct the Incoming General Executive Board immediately to appoint an organizer for Montreal and launch an organization campaign with a view to establishing union standards in both cities.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

**Resolution No. 51**

**CHILDREN'S DRESS STRIKE**

Introduced by Local No. 91, New York.

WHEREAS, the workers employed in the making of children's dresses are working under the most deplorable conditions, working long hours, receiving low wages, and being treated in a manner unbecoming American workers, and

WHEREAS, the aim of the International is to do away with the sweat-shop conditions, and

WHEREAS, the General Executive Board of our International has decided to call a general strike in the children's dress trade, and

WHEREAS, since this decision was made Local No. 91, under the direction of the I. L. G. W. U., has carried on a campaign amongst the workers employed on children's dresses as a preparatory means to the coming general strike, and

WHEREAS, this campaign has so far brought satisfactory results, and

WHEREAS, the conditions of the workers in non-union and union shops cannot be brought up to a fair and humane level unless a general strike in the industry is called; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. assembled in Cleveland,

Ohio, heartily approves the action of the General Executive Board in deciding to call a strike in the children's dress trade, of Greater New York; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the incoming General Executive Board stand instructed by this Convention to give its full financial and moral support to Local Union No. 91, during the campaign and general strike of the children's dressmakers, and that such strike is to continue until a victorious conclusion.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

#### Resolution No. 52

#### CHICAGO DRESSMAKERS' UNION

Introduced by Local No. 100, Chicago, Ill.

**WHEREAS**, the dress industry of Chicago employs about six thousand people who are unorganized, and

**WHEREAS**, since the 1924 strike, conditions in the industry have reduced the earnings of the workers to the lowest standard and made conditions unbearable, and

**WHEREAS**, the internal strife which confronted our Union has aggravated this condition; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the 20th Biennial Convention instruct the General Executive Board to pay special attention to the purpose of rebuilding the Dressmakers' Union in Chicago and have the trade organized.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

#### Resolution No. 53

#### CHICAGO POLISH CAMPAIGN

Introduced by Local No. 100, Chicago, Ill.

**WHEREAS**, there are a great number of unorganized Polish people employed in the dress industry of Chicago, and

**WHEREAS**, we believe the best way to successfully bring about the organization of the Polish workers, is to have an organizer who speaks their own language and knows their own psychology; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the incoming General Executive Board give this matter special consideration with the aim of placing a Polish organizer in the city of Chicago.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

#### Resolution No. 54

#### BOSTON ORGANIZATION CAMPAIGN

Introduced by Delegation of Local No. 46, Boston, Mass.

**WHEREAS**, there are hundreds of workers in the Boston dress industry who despite

the earnest efforts of the Local No. 46 are still outside of the I. L. G. W. U., and

**WHEREAS**, conditions under which these workers labor are such as to endanger the standards in the union-controlled shops, and

**WHEREAS**, past experience has shown that organization efforts directed against individual shops have not produced the best results; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that this 20th Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union instruct the incoming General Executive Board to institute an intensive dress organization campaign in Boston and vicinity to the end that all dress workers may be brought into Local No. 46 thereby establishing uniformly high standards of employment throughout the entire industry.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

#### Resolution No. 55

#### BOSTON FINISHERS

Introduced by Max Holman, Bernard Goldberg.

**WHEREAS**, Local No. 39, Boston, is chartered by the I. L. G. W. U. as a local union for finishers employed in the cloak and dress trades of Boston, and

**WHEREAS**, in order to solve the pressing problems and exercise control of working conditions in the trade it is of the utmost importance that all finishers belong to one local; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that all finishers who are at present members of any other local be transferred to Local No. 39; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that all finishers who are at present affiliated with Local No. 46 shall be transferred to Local No. 39.

Referred to Committee on Adjustment.

#### Resolution No. 56

#### OUT-OF-TOWN UNDERWEAR WORKERS

Introduced by delegation of Local No. 62, New York.

**WHEREAS**, silk, rayon and cotton ladies' and children's underwear, as well as corsets, brassiers and negligees are now being manufactured in many cities and states other than New York, and

**WHEREAS**, the workers in these out-of-town factories are working under conditions that tend to encourage unscrupulous manufacturers who would evade meeting the higher standards prevailing in New York City, and lead them to establish their factories outside of New York City; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U., assembled in Cleveland, Ohio, instruct its incoming General Executive Board to institute an organization campaign among the out-of-town shops for the purpose of establishing new locals of ladies' underwear workers and establish union standards for these workers wherever they are employed.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

**Resolution No. 57**

**TOLEDO, OHIO, WORKERS**

Introduced by Local No. 67, Toledo, Ohio.

**WHEREAS**, conditions in the cloak industry of Toledo, Ohio, have reached a state where the working conditions of the cloakmakers have become unbearable, and

**WHEREAS**, Local No. 67 of the I. L. G. W. U., Toledo, after canvassing the situation has decided that only a general strike can bring about restoration of reasonable working conditions; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U., heartily approves the decision of Local No. 67 and pledges the full support of the International.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

**Resolution No. 58**

**BALTIMORE CLOAK STRIKE**

Introduced by Local No. 4, Baltimore, Md.

**WHEREAS**, in the city of Baltimore there are several thousand unorganized cloakmakers working under sweat-shop conditions, and

**WHEREAS**, Local No. 4 of the I. L. G. W. U. is doing all in its power to reorganize the Baltimore cloakmakers and restore the organization to its former strong position in the International, and

**WHEREAS**, in this work Local No. 4 requires the assistance of the International; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the 20th Convention of the International authorize and direct the calling of a general strike in the Baltimore market during the coming Spring season for the purpose of establishing recognition of the Union and union standards of work and wages.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

**Resolution No. 59**

**ORGANIZING N. Y. UNDERWEAR WORKERS**

Introduced by delegation of Local No. 62, New York.

**WHEREAS**, the ladies' and children's silk, rayon and muslin underwear, brassieres, corsets and negligee industry in Greater New York has developed to such proportions where it now employs many more thousands of workers than hitherto, and

**WHEREAS**, the conditions under which the workers are forced to work are probably about the worst that exist in any branch of the needle industry under the jurisdiction of the I. L. G. W. U., and

**WHEREAS**, Local No. 62, of the International has waged occasional campaigns among these workers whose sympathetic response has indicated that the calling of a general strike would positively result in the building of a strong and powerful union, and

**WHEREAS**, the preparatory organization work in such a large industry is the task and responsibility of the International; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that this 20th Biennial Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. decide that immediately upon adjournment of the Convention the International inaugurate an organization drive among all silk, rayon, muslin underwear, brassieres, corsets and negligee workers in order that these workers may be prepared for a general strike which should be called as soon as possible to the end that all these workers may be brought into the International and their working conditions raised to union standards.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

**Resolution No. 60**

**PHILADELPHIA WAIST AND DRESS STRIKE**

Introduced by the Philadelphia Delegation.

**WHEREAS**, since the historic strike of 1921-22, the waist and dress industry in Philadelphia is only partially organized, and

**WHEREAS**, the non-union manufacturers in the waist and dress industry in Philadelphia have brought about deplorable working conditions in the union shops, and have adopted a strong anti-union attitude which makes it impossible to organize shops on an individual basis, and

**WHEREAS**, the waist and dressmakers in these open shops are impatiently waiting for the call from the International for organiza-



tion and are ready to take up a struggle if necessary, and

WHEREAS, there is an intensive organization drive on at present in the New York dress industry which will culminate in a general strike, and since Philadelphia is so near New York and the open shop conditions in the dress industry of Philadelphia may impair the prospective success of the New York dressmakers; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Convention instruct the incoming General Executive Board upon adjournment of this Convention to immediately inaugurate a vigorous organization campaign in Philadelphia on a large scale with a view of terminating this campaign with a general strike; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this Convention endorse this general strike for the waist and dress industry of Philadelphia and that it be called simultaneously with the general strike of the New York dress industry.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

#### Resolution No. 61

##### ORGANIZING CHICAGO DRESS-MAKERS

Introduced by Chicago Delegation.

WHEREAS, after the conclusion of the 1934 strike of the dressmakers in the City of Chicago, about five thousand dressmakers remained outside of the Union, and

WHEREAS, the working standards and conditions in the non-union dress shops are endangering the established standards of the unionized cloak and dressmakers in the city of Chicago; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the incoming General Executive Board be instructed to conduct a vigorous organization campaign with the object of completely unionizing the dressmakers in the City of Chicago; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the General Executive Board be empowered to call, at the opportune time, a general strike if necessary.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

#### Resolution No. 62

##### LOS ANGELES CAMPAIGN

Introduced by Local No. 65, Los Angeles. Sol Stone, President; Henry Rubinstein, Secretary.

WHEREAS, the cloak and dress industry in Los Angeles has grown from a minor to a major local industry which now employs about 1,000 cloakmakers and 5,000 dressmak-

ers, all of whom are employed at low standards of working conditions and wages, and

WHEREAS, the output of the Los Angeles market is rapidly finding Eastern markets, thus inevitably endangering labor standards in the East, and

WHEREAS, Local No. 65, Los Angeles, after having successfully defeated the efforts of Communist disruptionists finds itself too weak to undertake a necessary organization campaign; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 20th Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, instruct its General Executive Board to undertake an extensive organization campaign in Los Angeles immediately after adjournment of the Convention.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

#### Resolution No. 63

##### MANUFACTURE OF SPORTSWEAR

Introduced by H. Wander, Samuel Fremed, Sam Frumchuck, Chas. Jacobson, Local No. 23; Benj. Kaplan, Student, Israel Feinberg, R. Zuckerman, Nathan Hines; A. Rosenberg; Benj. Moser, H. Fried, Local No. 2; delegation of Local No. 9.

WHEREAS, the process of manufacture of sportswear requires the same degree of skill as the manufacture of cloak and suits, and is considered as a part of the cloak and suit industry, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that all such garments be made under the same standards and conditions as cloaks and suits are made.

Referred to Committee on Adjustment.

#### Resolution No. 64

##### CHARTER LOCAL 23

Introduced by delegation of Local No. 23, New York.

WHEREAS, a great number of cloak, suit and skirt shops, controlled by the New York Joint Board, as well as a number of non-union shops, have recently engaged in the manufacture of a new line of merchandise, known as sportswear, which consists of a separate skirt and a blouse, and

WHEREAS, this garment takes the place of the former suit and skirt; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Charter of Local No. 23 be amended to read: Skirt and Sportswear Makers' Union, of New York.

Referred to Committee on Adjustment.

**Resolution No. 65**

**MEMBERSHIP LOCAL 23**

Introduced by delegation of Local No. 23, New York.

WHEREAS, in a large number of shops in New York City skirts are being made together with other types of ladies garments, and

WHEREAS, Local No. 23, of New York City is recognized as the Skirt Makers' Local; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that wherever skirts are made in New York City the workers engaged in it should be members of the Skirt Makers' Union, Local No. 23.

Referred to Committee on Adjustment.

**Resolution No. 66**

**BOSTON ITALIAN MEMBERSHIP**

Introduced by Local No. 80, Boston, Mass.

WHEREAS, there are a number of Italian cutters in the city of Boston who are not members of the Union, though anxious to join, and

WHEREAS, on the occasion of the granting of a charter to Local No. 80, the General Executive Board demanded that all Italian garment workers be members of Local No. 80; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that all Italian-speaking ladies' garment workers in Boston shall be members of Local No. 80.

Referred to Committee on Adjustment.

**Resolution No. 67**

**CHICAGO ITALIAN CLOAKMAKERS**

Introduced by Local No. 80, Boston, Mass.

WHEREAS, there are in the city of Chicago a large number of unorganized Italian workers in the cloak and dress industry, and

WHEREAS, there is in existence at the present time an Italian branch of limited power and influence, and

WHEREAS, practical experience has shown that Italian branches have failed to bring about the desired organization of Italian cloak and dressmakers; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that to encourage and make possible organization of the Italian ladies' garment workers in Chicago, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union issue a charter to the Italian branch in Chicago, thus changing it from a branch to a local union.

Referred to Committee on Adjustment.

**Resolution No. 68**

**CAMDEN UNION**

Introduced by the Philadelphia Delegation.

WHEREAS, the cloak shops in the city of Camden, N. J., which city is near Philadelphia, are now under the control of the Out-of-Town Department, and

WHEREAS, it has been proven in the past that due to the distance it is physically impossible for said Department to exercise perfect control of the union shops of Camden, and, as a result, violations are committed which threaten to undermine the conditions of the union cloak shops of Philadelphia and New York; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Twentieth Convention of our International instruct the incoming General Executive Board to place the cloak shops of Camden under the sole control of the Philadelphia Joint Board; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that all agreements made in the future with Camden contractors who work for New York jobbers be made in conjunction with representatives of the Philadelphia Joint Board.

Referred to Committee on Adjustment.

**Resolution No. 69**

**WEEK-WORK IN CLOAK INDUSTRY**

Introduced by Chicago Delegation.

WHEREAS, since 1919 week work has prevailed in most centers where cloaks are being manufactured, and

WHEREAS, there still prevail cloak centers where cloaks are being manufactured under a different system, which in our opinion is detrimental to the market where week work is prevailing; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union assembled at its 20th Biennial Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, instruct the incoming General Executive Board to install week work wherever cloaks are being manufactured.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

**Resolution No. 70**

**AIDING LOCAL 62**

Introduced by Delegation of Local No. 62, New York.

WHEREAS, the agreement now in force between Local No. 62 of the I. L. G. W. U. and the manufacturers in New York City expires on January 31, 1930, and negotiations are to be begun for a new agreement soon

after adjournment of this Convention; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that this 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. instruct the incoming General Executive Board to assist in these negotiations and render Local No. 92 all possible aid until the negotiations are satisfactorily completed.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

#### Resolution No. 71

##### FINISHERS' WAGE SCALE

Introduced by Local No. 9, New York.

**WHEREAS**, the finishers are an important factor in the Ladies Garment Industry, and

**WHEREAS**, the conditions of the finishers are worse than those prevailing in other crafts of the industry, and

**WHEREAS**, the scales of wages of the finishers are lower than those of other workers in the trade; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the 20th Biennial Convention of the International instruct the incoming General Executive Board to formulate a plan to adjust the finishers' scales of wages at the future conferences with the employers' associations at the expiration of the present agreement.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

#### Resolution No. 72

##### FINANCING TORONTO STRIKE

Introduced by A. Kirzner, Delegate Joint Board, Toronto; S. Abrahams, Delegate Local No. 14, Toronto; S. Kraissman, Delegate Local No. 92, Toronto; A. Eaton, Delegate Local No. 19; Montreal.

**WHEREAS**, the G. E. B. at its last session held at the Governor Clinton Hotel, New York, granted the request at the Toronto Local Unions that a General Strike be declared at the beginning of the coming Spring season in order to improve conditions in the industry, as well as establishing an organization, and

**WHEREAS**, Brother Bernard Shane has been appointed Organizer and is at present in the midst of the work organizing the cloakmakers and preparing for the strike, and

**WHEREAS**, in order to achieve the desired results, moral and financial support of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union is absolutely essential; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that this Convention re-affirm the decision of the G. E. B. and instruct the incoming G. E. B. to appropriate a sum

of money sufficient to finance the above said general strike in Toronto.

Referred to Committee on Officers' Report.

#### Resolution No. 73

##### MONTREAL CAMPAIGN

Introduced by Albert Eaton, Local No. 19.

**WHEREAS**, due to adverse trade conditions and the destructive intrigues of the Communists, the Montreal, Canada, locals of the I. L. G. W. U. have been reduced to a weak position, and

**WHEREAS**, the restoration of proper work standards and conditions in the Montreal market requires much preparatory assistance leading up to an intensive organization campaign, and

**WHEREAS**, fully 600 Montreal cloakmakers have already responded to a campaign begun by Acting President David Dubinsky and have enrolled under the banner of the I. L. G. W. U.; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. instruct the incoming General Executive Board to continue its support, morally and financially, of the Montreal campaign, so that the complete establishment of union control and union conditions may speedily be brought about.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

#### Resolution No. 74

##### UNION PLEATING

Introduced by delegation of Local No. 41, New York.

**WHEREAS**, the previous conventions of the I. L. G. W. U. have adopted resolutions that all tucking, hemstitching, pleating, novelty work shall be made in union shops only, and

**WHEREAS**, the agreement in the Cloak industry of the City of New York has a provision that all accessories on ladies garments shall be made in union shops, and

**WHEREAS**, the General Executive Board of our International helped Local 41, in its recent strike, both financially and morally, and succeeded in signing a contract with a responsible manufacturers' association thereby improving the conditions of our workers, and

**WHEREAS**, the International is about to conduct a strike in the City of New York in the dress as well as in other branches of the industry, where ladies' garments are being manufactured; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that this Convention favor that the agreements entered into by the dress and other unions of the ladies' garment industry, shall embody a clause that all the above named accessories be made in union shops only, and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the incoming General Executive Board be instructed to see that this time this provision is carried into effect to its fullest extent.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

**Resolution No. 75**

**"GIUSTIZIA" ATTITUDE**

Introduced by Local No. 80, Boston.

**WHEREAS**, a number of members of Local No. 80 of the I. L. G. W. U. have expressed dissatisfaction with attacks on the present government of Italy carried in "Giustizia" a publication of our International; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the tradition of non-partisan policy of our International be maintained, and that "Giustizia" shall limit itself to news and comment concerning trade questions.

Referred to Committee on Officers' Report.

**Resolution No. 76**

**SAN FRANCISCO CAMPAIGN**

Introduced by J. Menckoff, President; Benjamin W. Guthertz, Secretary Local No. 8.

**WHEREAS**, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union has been for the past five years confronted with struggles against both an outlaw element and the employers, who time and again threatened its very existence, and

**WHEREAS**, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union has successfully repelled the attacks made against it by the union-destroying communists on one hand and the employers on the other and has in spite of these attacks reorganized our glorious International and re-established our standards of wages and hours in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and other centers, and

**WHEREAS**, we realize that the International still has a number of serious problems on hand such as the pending strikes in the children's dress and in the ladies' dress industry which will involve not less than sixty thousand of our brothers and sisters as well as a number of organization campaigns in other markets affecting our industry throughout the United States; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, first, that we congratulate our International and its officers in convention assembled on the splendid progress it has made in reconstructing both the organization and in the winning back of our hard-fought-for conditions in the Eastern markets, and, at the same time pledging our undivided loyalty and allegiance to the cause and welfare of our International, and

**WHEREAS**, in San Francisco there is a considerable suit and dress market working under terrible open shop conditions, involving as it always does, employment for favorites, discharges at the will and whim of the employers, and discrimination for legitimate trade union activities, and

**WHEREAS**, there are in San Francisco a large number of Chinese employed on dresses under conditions similar to the conditions existing thirty-five years ago, with our Chinese brothers and sisters compelled to work for miserably low wages, in cellar and sub-cellar shops without proper ventilation; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in convention assembled instruct the General Executive Board to give such aid in such manner as its present resources will permit to carry through an intensive campaign for the forty-hour five-day week as soon as feasible in the cloak, suit and dress industries in San Francisco.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

**Resolution No. 77**

**OLD AGE SECURITY**

I. L. G. W. U. Convention, Cleveland, Ohio.

American Association for Old Age Security sends you heartiest greetings and best wishes. Deeply appreciating the splendid help given by the officers of the I. L. G. W. U., we plead for continuation of support in order that terror of old age may be removed. We need the help of the I. L. G. W. U. in order to enact good law in New York in 1930.

ABRAHAM EPSTEIN, Secretary.

Referred to Committee on Old Age Pensions by motion of convention.

**Resolution No. 78**

**SUBURBAN ORGANIZATION CONTROL**

Introduced by Delegation of Local No. 2, New York.

**WHEREAS**, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union is conducting the organization work in the suburbs of New York for the benefit of the locals constituting the



Joint Board of the Cloak, Suit, Skirt, Dress and Reefer Makers' Union of New York, and

WHEREAS, our present agreement with the employers of New York is so formed that every shop making cloaks and suits in the suburbs of New York is a member of the Associations with which the Joint Board has contractual relations; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the organization work conducted in the suburbs of New York be supervised jointly by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and the Joint Board of the Cloak, Suit, Skirt, Dress and Reefer Makers' Union of New York; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the said department shall submit weekly reports for the approval of the Joint Board.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

#### Resolution No. 79 PACIFIC COAST MARKETS

Introduced by Delegate A. Plotkin, San Francisco.

WHEREAS, the Pacific Coast has developed as a cloak, suit and dress industry of tremendous proportions, and

WHEREAS, the markets of Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, and Los Angeles today employ not less than 8,000 workers, of whom 6,000 are employed in the dress industry and 2,000 in the cloak and suit industry, and

WHEREAS, these brothers and sisters are employed under conditions far below the standards of union conditions, wages and hours now existing in the shops of the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union, and

WHEREAS, the continuance of these centers under these low-standard conditions has already, and will continue to, become competitive factors in the cloak, suit and dress industry of the entire United States and thus may endanger conditions established in better organized centers; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. instruct the incoming General Executive Board to make an intensive effort to unionize the Pacific Coast and give to these markets on the Pacific Coast such moral and financial aid as is within the immediate power of the International to grant.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

#### Resolution No. 80 ELECTION OF BUSINESS AGENTS

Introduced by Delegation of Local No. 2, New York.

WHEREAS, at the Philadelphia Convention of 1923 an amendment to the constitution was adopted whereby the locals elect their business agents to the Joint Board, and

WHEREAS, the Joint Board, as such, is deprived of any say as to their competency, ability and fitness for office, and

WHEREAS, through this system it also becomes impossible for any local affiliated with the Joint Board to express its opinion as to the competency of any business agent of another local elected to represent all locals in the Joint Board of the Cloak, Suit, Skirt, Dress and Reefer Makers' Union of New York, and

WHEREAS, the above mentioned system brought about a condition whereby the business agents could not have the necessary responsibility to the Joint Board and as a consequence of this, our members have greatly suffered by it, and

WHEREAS, such condition is increasing the evil of craft unionism as against the modern thought of industrial unionism; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this Convention go on record as favoring that elections of business agents be made on the following plan:

1—Every good-standing member from each local affiliated with the Joint Board of the Cloak, Suit, Skirt, Dress and Reefer Makers' Union who desires to be a candidate for business agent of the Joint Board shall make out an application in the office of the Joint Board. The Joint Board shall advertise in the public press and in our own press specifying the time allotted for members of our Union to file applications.

2—The Joint Board after having all the applications filled out, shall send all the applications to each and every local of the Joint Board and give them a specified time in which to prefer any objections, if they so desire.

3—The Joint Board shall then elect an Examination Committee comprised of representatives of the Joint Board and representatives of each local affiliated with the Joint Board. The Joint Board shall also invite five (5) prominent men of the American labor movement to participate in this Examination Committee. The said committee shall examine all candidates; pass upon all objections and qualifications of each and every candidate, and its decision shall be binding and final.

After the examination of candidates is over, the elections shall be arranged by each local with the understanding that representatives of the Joint Board Cloak, Suit, Skirt, Dress and Reefer Makers' Union shall be present at each local election for the purpose of seeing that these elections are conducted in accordance with the provisions of our constitution.

Referred to Committee on Law.

**Resolution No. 81**

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT**

Introduced by Delegation of Local No. 2, New York.

Article 10, Section 10 to be amended to read as follows:

Members in arrears for more than twenty-six (26) weeks shall be automatically expelled from membership.

Referred to Committee on Law.

**Resolution No. 82**

**ELECTION OF GENERAL OFFICERS**

Introduced by Delegation of Local No. 2, New York.

WHEREAS, the present system of elections of all general officers as provided in the constitution, has been a constant source of dissatisfaction and internal friction in the ranks of our membership, and

WHEREAS, the said dissatisfaction has made it possible for various elements in our Union at different times, to incite our membership against our Union, thus undermining the confidence of the members in its leadership, and

WHEREAS, our General Executive Board in its appeal made to the membership prior to the last general strike in the cloak and suit industry in the City of New York, promised the membership that the above question would be taken up at the Convention and adjusted to the satisfaction of the members; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Article 2, Section 3 shall be amended to read:

Sec. 2—The President, General Secretary-Treasurer and General Executive Board shall be nominated at the convention and elected by a referendum vote of all members of the I. L. G. W. U. The names of all nominees who receive twenty-five (25) votes at the Convention shall appear on the ballot as candidates for the respective offices.

Sec. 3—The election shall be by ballot; those candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be considered elected. When there is but one candidate nominated for any office the election shall be an "aye" and "nay" ballot.

The term of office for all General Officers shall be for a period of two years, and they shall hold their respective offices until their successors are duly elected and installed.

The referendum shall take place thirty (30) days after the adjournment of the convention.

The convention shall elect a committee of twenty-five (25) delegates, representing the

various ladies' garment centres, to carry through the referendum.

Referred to Committee on Law.

**Resolution No. 83**

**ELIGIBILITY TO OFFICE**

Introduced by Delegation of Local No. 2, New York:

WHEREAS, Article 8, Section 19 of our constitution provides that those who leave the Union to become manufacturers in the ladies' garment industry for the purpose of securing another occupation which brings them in direct connection with the ladies' garment industry, such as salesmen, etc., cannot be eligible for office in the Union unless a member of the organization for five consecutive years after rejoining, and

WHEREAS, the above article was intended to elevate the morale of the Union, and

WHEREAS, a number of Locals of the Joint Board of the Cloak, Suit, Skirt, Dress and Reefer Makers' Union of New York have shown a lack of adherence to the above-named provision; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the incoming General Executive Board see to it that the above-mentioned article of the constitution shall be strictly enforced.

Referred to Committee on Law.

**Resolution No. 84**

**REPRESENTATION TO CONVENTION**

Introduced by Delegation of Local No. 2, New York:

WHEREAS, the present system of representation to the International Convention as provided in the constitution, has been a constant source of dissatisfaction and internal friction in the ranks of our membership, and

WHEREAS, the said dissatisfaction has made it possible for various elements in our Union to incite our membership at different times against our Union, thus undermining the confidence of the members in its leadership, and

WHEREAS, our General Executive Board, in its appeal made to the membership prior to the last general strike in the cloak and suit industry in the City of New York, promised the membership that the above-named questions will be taken up by the Convention and adjusted to the satisfaction of the members; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Article 2, Section 3 be amended to read:

The representation to the convention of the I. L. G. W. U. shall be computed on the following basis:

Local Unions with a membership of 250 or less, shall be represented at conventions by one delegate.

Local unions with a membership more than shall be entitled to one delegate for the first 250 and one additional delegate for the next 500, or at least one-fourth thereof.

Local Unions with a membership more than 750 shall be entitled to two (2) delegates for the first 750 and one additional delegate for each additional 700, or at least one-fourth thereof; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Article 4, Section 2 shall also be amended to read as follows:

"All Joint Boards consisting of locals, some having less than 1,000 members, and some having a membership more than 1,000; the representation to such Joint Board shall be based on the same representation as each local is entitled to the representation to the convention. However, in order to create an efficient and workable Joint Board the number of delegates representing the locals to the Joint Board shall be two-thirds of the representation that each local of the Joint Board is entitled to the convention. A fraction of a delegate shall entitle the local to a full delegate.

Referred to Committee on Law.

#### Resolution No. 85

#### RE-CHARTERING LOCAL 17

A letter by the Executive Board of Local No. 2, New York:

Greetings:—

We hereby wish to file a protest against the action of the G. E. B. at its session held in October, 1929, in re-chartering Local No. 17. Our protest is based upon the following facts:

1—The Special Investigation Committee of the Convention specifically stated that there is absolutely no industrial justification for granting a charter to Local No. 17 and that the charter was given them for political reasons only. Since our Union is not organized for political purposes, but for economical and industrial, Local No. 17, therefore, had no justification for its existence.

2—Subsequent to the granting of the charter, Local No. 17 adopted a policy injurious to the morale of our Union. It has disobeyed every decision and order of the G. E. B. It has taken in members from Local No. 2 without transfers, which is contrary to the constitution and the decision of the G. E. B.

3—The decision of the Special Investigation Committee of the Convention confined Local No. 17 to infants' and children's coats and reefers up to size 15 and 17. We contend that there is no such garment as a reefer made in the cloak industry in New York and be-

cause of it, Local No. 17 during the year of its existence, employed all means to initiate members working at all kinds of coats of ladies' and misses' sizes.

4—The G. E. B. after censuring Local No. 17 for taking in members from Local No. 2 without transfers, instructed its auditor to investigate the number of violations committed by Local No. 17, and after its findings decided that Local No. 17 refund to Local No. 2 all the money due us, equivalent to the per capita. Up to date, however, Local No. 17 failed to comply with the decisions and did not refund the money.

5—During the General Strike of 1929, it was proven that Local No. 17 again willfully violated the decisions laid down by the Special Committee of the G. E. B. and the G. E. B. itself, and has taken in a large number of members from Local No. 2 who were in good standing. When these violations were brought to the attention of the Executive of the General Strike Committee, Local No. 17 was also censured by that body.

6—In the recent strike of 1929 it was also proven that Local No. 17 negotiated secret deals with various members of the General Picket Committee whereby shops taken down and operators employed therein, be brought to Local No. 17 to join as members, irrespective of the line of cloaks manufactured in those shops.

In view of the above, we maintain and are ready to prove our contentions that at least two-thirds (2-3) of the present membership of Local No. 17 consists of workers employed at regular size cloaks, which rightfully belong under the jurisdiction of Local No. 2. This shows that Local No. 17 and Local No. 2, although two separate locals, comprise the same craft of workers and consequently Local No. 17, because of the facts enumerated, had no right to a charter and existence.

We faithfully hope and trust that the Convention will accord this controversy between Locals No. 2 and No. 17 its due and earnest attention and dispose of the matter in the proper manner according to the constitution of the International.

Fraternally yours,

EXECUTIVE BOARD, LOCAL No. 2,

I. L. G. W. U.

BENJAMIN KAPLAN, Mgr.-Sec'y.

New York, Nov. 30, 1929.

Referred to Committee on Officers' Report.

#### Resolution No. 86

#### RE-CHARTERING LOCAL 17

Introduced by the Delegation of Local No. 2, New York:

WHEREAS, the Special Investigation Committee selected at the convention held in Bos-



tion to consider on, and decide as to, the claim made then by the members of Local 17, pertaining to the re-chartering of their Local, and

WHEREAS, that Special Committee in its final decision urged that the former Local 17 be re-chartered, not for industrial reasons, but for causes which are of a political reason only, and

WHEREAS, our International Union has never chartered, divided, nor merged any locals for political reasons, and

WHEREAS, the above named Special Committee has overstepped the boundaries of our International Constitution; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 20th Biennial Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. now taking place in Cleveland, Ohio, go on record protesting against the action of the above-named Committee.

Referred to Committee on Officers' Report.

#### Resolution No. 87

##### EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Introduced by M. Amdur, Boston Joint Board; A. Kirzner, Toronto Joint Board; P. Kramer, Boston, E. Reisberg, Local No. 50; E. Splink, Local No. 106; N. Margolis, Local No. 22; N. Solomon, Local No. 26; Beckie Stein, Local No. 69; Sarah Greenberg, Local No. 69; M. W. Jacobs, Local No. 10; Max Stoller, Local No. 10; David Fruhling, Local No. 10; Isidore Jacobs, Local No. 10; Louis Pankin, Local No. 10; Rose Mirsky, Local No. 22; Ida Rubin, Local No. 22; J. Guralnik, Local No. 37; Sol Flack, Local No. 5; Maurice Teitel, Local No. 42; Leon Hattab, Local No. 66; M. Ellisberg, Local No. 113; Isidore Nagler, New York Joint Board; Benjamin Kaplan, Local No. 2; Nicholas Kirtzman, Local No. 9; M. Bialis, Chicago Joint Board; Louis Freind, Local No. 26; I. Rosenfeld, Local No. 22; Fannie Shapiro, Local No. 62; Boris Drasin, Local No. 38; Ralph Vitulla, Local No. 38; R. Bronstein, Local No. 38; Abraham Bloomfield, Local No. 50; C. Iandoll, Local No. 89; Santo Aversano, Local No. 89; Max Grackin, Local No. 41; Sam Richman, Local No. 41; E. Molisani, Local No. 48; M. Levin, Local No. 50; Jacob Heller, Local No. 17; L. Horowitz, Local No. 75; Samuel Friedman, Local No. 20; J. Stankovich, Local No. 17.

WHEREAS, we are now celebrating the Thirteenth Anniversary of the establishment of the Educational Department of the I. L. G. W. U. and

WHEREAS, during the existence of our Educational Department, our International went through most trying periods in the life of our organization that threatened its very existence, such as general strife, lock-outs, business crises, and the infamous communistic adventures in our Union which practically led to the destruction of many of the institutions and activities of our organization, and

WHEREAS, despite all this our Educational Department survived because our members appreciated and proudly pointed to the place that our Educational Department occupies in their hearts and in their imagination, and of the position it occupies in the labor movement, and of the esteem it is held in by the progressive social, educational and research organizations, for its pioneering in the field of workers' education, and of the intellectual leadership it supplies to the Labor Movement; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Twentieth Biennial Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. held in the city of Cleveland, express its appreciation to the General Executive Board and its officers for the support and encouragement they gave our Educational Department since, and, be it further

RESOLVED, that we expect the incoming General Executive Board to continue to support our Educational Department, and so assure its uninterrupted functioning, for the enlightenment of our members, and for the good of the International Union in particular, and the Labor Movement in general.

Referred to Committee on Education.

#### Resolution No. 88

##### BUSINESS AGENTS' PAY

Introduced by Delegation of Local No. 2, New York:

WHEREAS, business agents and district managers of the Joint Board, Cloak, Suit, Skirt, Dress and Reefer Makers' Union of New York are at present paid by their respective locals, and

WHEREAS, such a system has proven to be a hindrance in the enforcement of the necessary discipline and the desired control over the officers serving at the Joint Board, Cloak, Suit, Skirt, Dress and Reefer Makers' Union of New York, and

WHEREAS, there is a difference of opinion whether the Joint Board has a legal right to decide that the business agents and district managers be paid by the Joint Board due to the fact that according to the present laws they are elected through local elections; therefore, be it



**RESOLVED**, that the Twentieth Convention of the I. L. O. W. U. emphasize the necessity that officers who work for the Joint Board shall be paid by that same body which supervises their work and that the locals constituting the Joint Board of New York shall immediately be called upon to make the necessary financial arrangements to execute the above-named recommendations.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

#### Resolution No. 89

##### ASSISTING RAND SCHOOL

Introduced by Louis Reiff, of Local 35; Abraham Snyder, of Local No. 62; Louis Pankin, of Local No. 10.

**WHEREAS**, the Rand School of Social Science has always stood with organized labor and was always helpful to our unions when they were called upon to render any assistance, and

**WHEREAS**, the Rand School of Social Science always conducted classes in Trade Union subjects and gave scholarships to many of the members of the locals of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and

**WHEREAS**, the Rand School of Social Science always championed the cause of Labor; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union assembled at this Convention, decide to contribute \$300.00 towards the Rand School of Social Science; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this Convention recommend to the locals of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union to assist the Rand School of Social Science morally and financially to enable it to continue its future activity of enrolling more members of our organization in their educational courses.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

#### Resolution No. 90

##### ORGANIZING LOCAL 38

Introduced by Delegates of Local No. 38.

**WHEREAS**, for the last year, our Local has been actively engaged in an organization campaign among the unorganized ladies' tailors and especially among the unorganized custom dressmaking division of the trade, and

**WHEREAS**, the organization of the last is of great importance to the welfare of our organized workers and would also prove of great advantage to the much-exploited though skillful workers in the highly fashionable dress shops, and

**WHEREAS**, good work has already been done by our local to create a union senti-

ment among those unorganized, as manifested by a few strikes in a field never before approached and often considered a field impossible to approach, and

**WHEREAS**, in order to bring about complete organization of the five to six thousand custom dressmakers of the exclusive Fifth Avenue shops and thousands more scattered in smaller shops throughout the city of New York, greater efforts than that of the size and means our own Local can create are needed, and

**WHEREAS**, the General Executive Board has assigned an additional temporary woman organizer for the last few months, but that much greater help would be required from the International to reach the goal; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that this Twentieth Biennial Convention of the I. D. O. W. U. go on record as fully endorsing our campaign, and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this Convention instruct and authorize the General Executive Board to give all the moral and sufficient financial help required in order to successfully conclude the work undertaken by Local 38; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that should it be necessary to call a general strike in order to bring about complete unionization of the ladies' tailors and custom dressmakers in the City of New York, this Convention authorizes the General Executive Board to take such action at the opportune time; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that a permanent committee of the General Executive Board be assigned by the Incoming General Executive Board to work in conjunction with the representatives of Local 38, in order to achieve the above-mentioned aim, and so bring about organization of one more important branch of the ladies' garment industry.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

#### Resolution No. 91

##### NATIONAL BELLAS HESS COMPANY

Introduced by the Delegates of Local No. 35, New York:

**WHEREAS**, following the last general strike of the cloakmakers in the New York market our International and the N. Y. Joint Board reached understandings with chain store companies, mail order houses and other retailers that they would not handle the products made in sub-standard or sweat-shops, and

**WHEREAS**, the continued cooperation of the chain store companies, mail order houses and retailers is an important factor in the nation-wide campaign to eliminate sweat-shop conditions from the cloak, suit and dress industry, and

**WHEREAS**, the promises by executives of

the National Bellas Hess Company, a national mail order house, to cooperate with the International against sweat-shops conditions have not been fulfilled by them; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that this 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U., instruct its incoming General President to take whatever steps he may consider advisable to the end that the National Bellas Hess Company stop dealing with sweat-shops and sub-standard shops.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions

**Resolution No. 92**

**CLEVELAND CLOAK AND DRESS STRIKE**

Introduced by the Cleveland Delegation:

WHEREAS, a great section of the Cleveland cloak and dressmakers are employed under sweatshop conditions, which debate labor standards and subject the workers to great indignity, and

WHEREAS, even the legitimate manufacturer, seeking to maintain union conditions, cannot withstand the cut-throat competition of the sweatshop which is rapidly demoralizing our cloak and dress industry; and

WHEREAS, individual shop strikes are inadequate to cope with the existing situation and a general strike is the only means of successfully organizing the cloak and dress industries of Cleveland, and

WHEREAS, the General Executive Board, at its regular quarterly meeting in July of this year, instructed the Local Joint Board to proceed with an organization campaign which should culminate in a general strike when agreements expire in December 1929; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that this 20th Biennial Convention endorse the decision of the General Executive Board to call such a general strike of the cloak and dress industries, in the event the just demands of the Union for the 40 hour week and the abolition of sweat-shops are denied; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the incoming General Executive Board be instructed and authorized to provide the necessary moral and financial assistance in this coming struggle.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

**Resolution No. 93**

**CLEVELAND SWEATSHOPS**

Introduced by the Cleveland Delegation.

WHEREAS, the widespread growth of sweatshops around Cleveland and in the State of Ohio undermine union standards, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that this 20th Biennial Convention instruct the incoming General Executive Board, immediately upon adjournment of this Convention, to formulate in conjunction with the Cleveland Joint Board plans to organize these non-union workers and bring them into the fold of our International.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

**Resolution No. 94**

**AMENDING CHARTER LOCAL 23**

Introduced by Delegates of Local No. 22, New York:

WHEREAS, it is a recognized policy of our International that no two local unions in the same city shall have jurisdiction over the same crafts in the same trade, and

WHEREAS, Local 22 has jurisdiction over all dress operators, finishers, drapers, etc., excepting Italians who are members of Local 89, and

WHEREAS, Local 23 controls a number of shops, most of which work on dresses, and

WHEREAS, this condition causes continual friction between the dressmakers, Local 22, the dress department and Local 23, thereby bringing about a condition where dress shops have agreements which expire at different periods thus conflicting with the best interest of the Union, and

WHEREAS, a general strike in the dress industry in the City of New York is about to be called and it is absolutely necessary for the success of this strike that all dress shops be tied up and settled on the same terms and conditions and be uniformly controlled; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that this Convention amend the charter of Local No. 23 by striking out the words "cloth dresses" and instruct the incoming G. E. B. to order Local 23 to transfer to Local 22 all shops under the control of Local 23 which manufacture dresses to the Dressmakers' Union.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

**Resolution No. 95**

**ORGANIZING ST. LOUIS DRESS INDUSTRY**

Introduced by B. Gilbert of St. Louis:

WHEREAS, the St. Louis dress industry is becoming an increasingly important center where thousands of dressmakers should be enjoying high standard conditions of work and wages, and

WHEREAS, labor conditions in the St. Louis dress industry are far below accepted union standards, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that this 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. favor the inauguration of a general organization campaign in the St. Louis dress market; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this Convention give full power to the incoming General Executive Board to carry out such a campaign.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

#### Resolution No. 96

#### ORGANIZING AMERICAN LABOR PARTY

Introduced by Samuel Perlmutter, Local No. 10; Israel Feinberg, Local No. 2; Louis Penkin, Local No. 10; Harry Greenberg, Local No. 91; J. Stankovich, Local No. 17; Philip Kramer, Local No. 73; Isaac Posen, Local No. 46; Sol. Polakoff, Local No. 75; N. Hines, Local No. 2; Julius Hochman, Local No. 22; Elias Reisberg, Local No. 50; Harry Wander, Local No. 23; Louis Reiff, Local No. 35; Benj. Kaplan, Local No. 2; A. Abramson, Local No. 2; A. Student, Local No. 2; Benj. Moser, Local No. 2.

**WHEREAS**, the two major political parties notoriously fail to protect the political rights and stifle the social aspirations of the American toiling masses, and

**WHEREAS**, these two parties are increasingly controlled by the rapidly increasing monopolistic powers of big business, and

**WHEREAS**, this control is evident in the failure of the requisite social legislation—such as old age pensions, unemployment and sickness insurance, the adequate protection of disability—all of which social legislation is a commonplace growth where workingmen's political parties exercise adequate expression, and

**WHEREAS**, the use of the injunction and other judicial interferences with the natural exercises of organized labor by our courts, which cannot help but express the mandates of the polls and therefore constantly and

ever-more infringe upon the constitutional rights and the legitimate development of the organized labor movement; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that this 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. re-affirm the traditional policy of our International in favor of the organization of a labor party.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

#### Resolution No. 97

#### BALTIMORE GENERAL STRIKE

Introduced by Delegate Glushakow, of Local No. 4, Baltimore:

**WHEREAS**, the cloak and suit market in the city of Baltimore is the second largest in the country, and

**WHEREAS**, the three thousand workers engaged in that industry are practically totally unorganized, working long hours, under miserable conditions and for wages far below the standards prevailing in the city of New York and other organized centers, and

**WHEREAS**, such conditions are a menace to the trade in general as a competing market, and

**WHEREAS**, these conditions can be improved only through a general strike in the cloak industry of this city; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that this 20th Bi-Annual Convention instruct the incoming G. E. B. to authorize such a general strike in the city of Baltimore during the coming spring season and to provide the necessary moral and financial assistance; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the incoming G. E. B. also be instructed to assign an organizer to Local No. 4, immediately upon the adjournment of the convention, to take charge of this situation.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

This completes the list of resolutions submitted to Secretary Baroff up to 6 p. m. Tuesday, in accordance with the rules adopted.

## Third Day—Wednesday Morning Session

Cleveland, Ohio, December 4, 1929

The Convention was called to order at 10 o'clock by President Schlesinger.

Secretary Baroff read the telegrams and letters received since the previous session which are printed in full further on.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** It gives me great pleasure to present to you our guest, Vice-President Gingold.

**VICE-PRESIDENT DAVID GINGOLD:** I am very glad to come here as the guest of the Convention, and join

with you in celebrating the wonderful progress, the great accomplishments that we have achieved in the last year and a half. I surely am very grateful to have had the opportunity to be one of the members of the General Executive Board during that period of reconstruction.

I am sure that you have already had occasion to listen in detail to the present standing of our International Union; it is, therefore, not necessary for me to recite it to you again. Now that our International Union is again occupying the place in the industrial life of our country to which it is entitled, I join you all in the hope that from this convention we shall issue an influential organization, whose great power and prestige shall assure permanent security and continued advancement to all its members.

I thank you very much. (Applause.)

#### Communists Lose Hold on Dressmakers' Building

President Schlesinger announced cheerful news to the Convention. A telegram from his son, Emil Schlesinger, an attorney of New York, announced that the Supreme Court of New York had just decided in favor of the International in the case against the Communists, who illegally held the Dressmakers' Building at 16 W. 21st St., property of the International.

"This decision means," President Schlesinger remarked, "that the Communists will be ejected from the building when we get back to New York."

The telegram, received with cheers by the delegates, reads:

Dec. 3, 1929.

Benjamin Schlesinger,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Supreme Court just rendered decision in case of building at 16 W. 21st St., N. Y. C., in favor of the Union. Greetings to the delegates at the Convention.

EMIL SCHLESINGER.

The following telegram from Lieutenant-Governor Herbert H. Lehman of New York, was then read by the President and applauded by the convention:

Benjamin Schlesinger, President, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

On behalf of Governor Roosevelt who is out of the State as well as on my own behalf, I want to thank you and the Convention for the generous messages which we have received. I can assure you that Governor Roosevelt and I have had great satisfaction in co-operating with all the factors in the Cloak and Suit Industry in their constructive efforts to improve conditions. We are gratified to know that so much progress has been made and we can assure you that our interest in the problems of your great industry continues unabated. Kindest regards.

HERBERT H. LEHMAN,  
Acting Governor.

CHARLES BAKER, representing the Tobacco Workers' International Union and speaking also in behalf of the Cigar Makers' International Union, addressed the Convention. He described the sad plight of the tobacco workers who are paid by the companies as little as 10 cents an hour. He urged the delegates and their friends to smoke only union made cigars, cigarettes and tobacco.

MR. A. MANNING, Secretary of the Cleveland Teachers' Union, who is also Secretary of the Young People's Socialist League, addressed the Convention. He urged the necessity of having a Labor Party in the United States similar to that in England, and hoped that the International, in line with its traditions, would continue to sponsor it within the American labor movement.

#### Convention Indorses General Strike in Dress Trade

VICE-PRESIDENT JULIUS HOCHMAN, chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, presented the portion of the committee's report dealing with the dress situation in New York. He read the resolutions introduced by Locals 22 and 89 calling for a general strike in the dress industry in New York to which the delegates responded with prolonged applause and cheers. He then read the following report:

#### Report on the Dress Situation

Your Committee received a number of resolutions dealing with endorsement of



general strikes. Although such resolutions are not unusual, we believe that at this time they are of special significance. The glorious victory of the New York Cloak strike, last July, stirred the hearts and awakened the hopes of the workers in every center where ladies' garments are produced. Revolting against the intolerable conditions which the employers, in the absence of strong unions, imposed upon the workers, the workers look to our International for leadership. In every center our existing Joint Boards, Local Unions have responded to this new situation and instituted campaigns under the guidance of our International. Now they ask for definite action by this Convention.

The General Executive Board, in its report to this Convention (see page 81 of the G. E. B. report) calls attention to this situation and firmly declares, that the dress shops of New York "must be placed on a rock-ribbed foundation and that nothing short of that will satisfy us."

The Committee on Resolutions received the following resolutions among a number of others on the subject:

#### Resolution No. 1\*

#### CALLING FOR A GENERAL DRESS STRIKE IN NEW YORK

Introduced by Locals 22 and 89, the Resolves of which read:

**RESOLVED**, that the 20th Biennial Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. hereby reaffirms its decision to call a general strike, in the dress industry in New York at the expiration of the present agreements, or immediately thereafter; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the incoming General Executive Board is hereby authorized and instructed to proceed with the preparation of the general strike machinery for the efficient conduct and successful termination of the general strike; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this Convention pledges

\*The full text of the resolutions reported on by the various committees appears in previous pages and in numerical order as given when they were submitted. In the reports of the various committees only the **RESOLVES** are printed.

(Editor's Note.)

to the New York dressmakers all its available resources, and its readiness to do everything possible to assure for them a speedy and decisive victory.

#### Resolution No. 4

Introduced by New York Joint Board of Cloak, Skirt, Dress and Reefer Makers' Union, the Resolve of which reads:

**RESOLVED**, that in the event of failure to replace the present agreement with one fully protecting the interests of the dressmakers through an amicable adjustment, this, the 20th convention of the I. L. G. W. U., authorizes the calling of a general dress strike in the New York Market.

What happened to the dressmakers during the last few years is well known to the delegates. But now, to quote the report, "we are on the eve of a decisive event in the dress industry in the City of New York." The successful campaign carried on by the International, the Joint Board of New York and its affiliated dress locals, received an immediate response from the workers.

The agreements in the dress industry expire December 31st of this year. The I. L. G. W. U., the Joint Board of the Cloak & Dressmakers' Union, and the Dressmakers' Locals of New York, are making the necessary preparations for a General Strike that we know will paralyze the dress industry and will result in the abolition of the sweatshop and the establishment of Union standards and Union conditions for all the workers in the industry and a strong and powerful Dressmakers' Union.

The tens of thousands of dressmakers in New York are looking to this Convention for approval and support in this great effort.

Your committee therefore recommends that this Convention endorse the plans of the G. E. B. including a general strike in the dress industry of New York after the expiration of the present agreement and pledge every support to it, and to call upon each Joint Board and Local Union affiliated with our International to give unstinted support so as to assure a

complete and speedy victory to the Dressmakers of New York.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** Before putting the motion to adopt the Committee's report to a vote, I wish to make the following remarks on the question:

You will find hundreds of shops in the dress industry of New York in which the padrone system exists; small shops, of course, where ten or twelve workers are employed, most of them being girls. Of these ten or twelve workers only two or three work directly for that shop owner, so-called; the others serve as helpers for these three persons. The result is that at the end of the week even in these sweat shops, you will find three workers earning big wages, because they have been exploiting other workers who have been working as helpers for them. That is the padrone system.

The sweat shops in the dress industry of New York are such that every right-thinking person should help to abolish them. Sweatshops simply grind the workingman, and make it impossible for him to live with a degree of decency, proper for a worker in this great country of the United States.

Editors of conservative newspapers, even admit that it is the duty of every right-thinking person to help the union in its work to eradicate that evil which is the disgrace of present-day industry, and a disgrace to civilization.

Now let me explain what I mean by a "sweatshop." The sweatshop today is not exactly the sweatshop that existed forty years ago, when I first came into the industry. In those days the sweat shop had two features to it. The first feature was that it was generally located in a tenement house. The first shop, for instance, that I went to work in, in Chicago was on the top floor of a four-story building. I believe it was the only four-story building in that particular street in those days in Chicago, and on the top of that four-story building, was a shop. It wasn't really a shop, but living rooms. The employer lived there with his wife and children. The

room that we would call the library, or the sitting room, was used for the machine operators; the kitchen was used for the pressing department. The kitchen stove was heated by coal, and the pressers would work in that room during the day, and also at night, if it was necessary to work at night.

That feature has, to a certain extent, been eliminated, because laws have been enacted during the last forty years in nearly all of the states of the Union. Perhaps we haven't got them in the South, but most of the States of the Union are progressive, and they have adopted laws prohibiting shops in tenement houses.

We used to have shops in those days on the top of stables. Of course, that stable wasn't built out of brick, nor even of cement. It would be a wooden stable where a few horses would be kept, and over the stable would be a tailor shop in which our men and our girls would be kept.

There were a good many shops in basements and sub-basements, if you please, and that is why in those days our people suffered terribly and their eyesight was impaired. They always worked by artificial light and we had an appalling percentage of consumptives in our industry.

So far as the sweatshops are concerned, or tenementhouse shops, or shops over stables, or in sub-basements, they have largely been eliminated by reason of our strict supervision and also by reason of legislation enacted in the various States. Of course, you will find a good many of them today, but not as many as in the olden days.

But there is another feature which makes a shop indecent, or a sweatshop, namely, the way the workers are treated. They work long hours, and for low wages. They must forget all about their dignity as human beings. They must permit themselves to be treated by the employer in any way the employer pleases, and as far as this feature is concerned, just as everything in the world has progressed, this feature of ex-

ploitation has also progressed in the last forty years.

You find most of the shops located not on the top of stables, and not in basements or sub-basements, but in regular factory buildings often the most modern buildings, but if you go into these buildings you will find the exploitation even worse than forty years ago, and this exploitation cuts the throat not only of the worker about whom we are mostly and solely concerned, but it also cuts the throat of the legitimate employer. When we speak of the employer, and when we regret that it also cuts his throat, it is because we don't want our industry to die. We don't want our industry to become a pauper industry. That is why as trade unionists, as members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, we are also interested in improving conditions so that even employers may be able to exist.

In order to do this the dressmakers of New York must be called out on strike. The whole industry must be ventilated, and only by ventilating it, only by calling a general strike, will we be able to establish the conditions under which a worker will be able to work and support himself with the degree of decency becoming Americans.

That is the sense and that is the substance of the resolutions and the report of the Committee. The motion that was made by the Chairman of the Committee calls for the action that I have just explained to you.

The motion to adopt the resolution was carried unanimously by a rising vote followed by an enthusiastic demonstration.

**FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT SALVATORE NINFO** assumed the chair and introduced Miss McKee, Secretary of the Consumers' League of Cleveland.

Miss McKee expressed her pleasure at the honor of addressing the Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. She said she had read with interest the history of the Union and that she had been pleased that the Consumers' League had been

able to assist the Union in its investigation of local conditions in the trade.

Miss McKee said that if it were possible, it would be of great assistance to the consuming public if some way could be devised which would permit consumers to know that goods purchased had been manufactured under proper union conditions.

Upon motion of Delegate Isidore Nagler the Convention extended its thanks to Miss McKee and to the Consumers' League of Cleveland.

President Schlesinger assumed the chair and introduced and mentioned with praise the following members of the press:

- Dr. B. Hoffman,  
Editor, "Justice."
- Mr. P. Dembitzer,  
Managing Editor, "Justice."
- Mr. J. J. Leary, Jr.,  
New York World.
- Mr. Joseph Shaplen,  
New York Times.
- Mr. Louis Stark,  
New York Times.
- Mr. B. Stolberg,  
Magazine Writer.
- Mr. Siskind,  
Chicago Forward.
- Mr. L. Schaffer,  
New York Forward.
- Mr. Newborn,  
Cleveland News.
- Mr. Lavelle,  
Cleveland Plain Dealer.
- Mr. Ashcraft,  
Cleveland Press.
- Mr. Platt,  
International News Service.
- Mr. Richard Rohman,  
Publicity Director, I. L. G. W. U.
- Mr. Chas. H. Green,  
Women's Wear Daily.
- Mr. Jacob Rich,  
New York Forward.
- Mr. Edward Levinson,  
New Leader.

The convention adjourned at 12:20 to 9:30 Thursday morning.

The following resolutions and communications were referred to the various committees by unanimous consent:

**Resolution No. 98**

Letter from Relief Society for Socialist Prisoners and Exiles in Soviet Russia:

December 2, 1920.

To the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in Convention at Cleveland:

The Relief Society for Socialist Prisoners and Exiles in Soviet Russia sends you most hearty greetings. We congratulate you on your victory over the dark forces which threatened the solidarity of the workers. We wish you success in your struggle for industrial democracy. May your work proceed uninterrupted until you will have reached your objective which is the complete emancipation of the workers.

Comrades and friends, you know what an arduous task it is to fight for freedom, for the welfare of the proletariat. You are likewise aware how much more difficult has been the struggle of our comrades in Russia. Their fight against the dark forces was a long and dangerous one. For their faith in socialism, in the true liberation of the toiling masses, they are now being exiled and imprisoned and tortured. Yet they continue their heroic fight. And they will win. We appeal to you to help us feed and clothe these courageous fighters. Your help will not merely keep them from going hungry, it will help to sustain them spiritually. Our comrades in Russia know that you have always been ready to help, that you have made their struggle for freedom your own. They are extremely grateful to you for what you have already done.

Remember us during your present rejoicing over your victory. Our comrades need our help more than they ever did. The present economic crisis in Soviet Russia makes the lot of the Socialist prisoners and exiles worse than heretofore. Help us feed them. There are thousands of hungry and naked souls fighting with their last breath for freedom. Help us feed them.

THE COMMITTEE,  
By Manya G. Strunsky.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

**Resolution No. 99**

A letter from the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, 239 West 136th St., New York, N. Y. Affiliated with the

American Federation of Labor No. 18068: \*

December 2, 1920.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,

Mr. Abraham Baroff, General Secretary-Treasurer,

3 West 16th Street,  
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Brothers:

Greetings and felicitations upon your great achievement in rebuilding your movement into a powerful organization. You have fought with dogged and relentless determination and your struggle is being crowned with success and victory.

The Sleeping Car Porters who, too, have been the victims of indescribable persecution and oppression, are valiantly raising their heads, standing erect with their eyes upon the star of a new day of industrial freedom and justice. They are marching forward. We are opposed by one of the most powerful monarchs of American industry, the Pullman Company. This is the same company which imprisoned Eugene Victor Debs in the railway strike of '04. This is the company which collects a toll of \$7,000,000 per year in tips from the public, which enables it to pay starvation wages to the porters and maids. Not only are they paid but \$77.50 per month as a wage, but are required to labor nearly 400 hours per month with only three hours' sleep per night. Perhaps and perhaps not. There are thousands of extra porters who do not make \$77.50 per month since they are only paid according to the time they actually put in in road service; and thousands of porters do not make a month in road service; and they, therefore, are not paid a month's wage.

The Pullman Company has set up a Company Union known as the Employee Representation Plan and has employed all forms of coercion and intimidation to compel the men to accept it. But the porters and maids have organized and held their lines on the industrial battle front for nearly five years, although they have lost a large number of their soldiers in the struggle. They will continue to hold the lines. Their victory is your victory and their defeat your defeat. The victory of the Pullman Porters is not only significant from the point of view of the great results of their organization; but it means the stimulation of interest in organizations among Negroes in all industries. It means that it will hearten and encourage the thousands of Negro girls and women in the garment industry to join the International Ladies' Garment Union and fight side by side with their white brothers and sisters for a better day.

Our long struggle has been extremely expensive and some of the men, as in other organizations, have lost courage and fallen



by the way side. Some have failed to keep up paying their dues. Therefore, we are calling upon the International Ladies' Garment Workers in convention assembled in Cleveland to make a contribution to the Sleeping Car Porters' fight for the right to organize, a living wage and the eight hour day.

We must intensify and carry forward our organization program; but it requires an immense amount of funds since our movement is spread throughout the entire country. We are now a part of the American Federation of Labor, having received charters of affiliation. You have helped our cause in the past; and we shall appreciate whatever support you may find it convenient to give us now.

The Brotherhood will be glad to lend its support to the International Ladies' Garment Workers at any time in its great drive to organize the Colored workers in the garment industry.

Forward to victory!

Fraternally yours,

A. PHILIP RANDOLPH,  
President and General Organizer,  
N. B. S. C. P.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

#### Resolution No. 100

Letter from The Modern School Association of N. A., Inc., Stelton, New Jersey:

December 1, 1929.

Abraham Baroff,  
I. L. G. W. U.,  
Hotel Winton, Cleveland, Ohio.  
Greetings:

The Ferrer Modern School Association, Inc., of which some of your locals have for many years been members, send you our greetings and wish you success in your deliberations.

Our school which is the first progressive school in America organized to expound and to practice libertarianism in education, and is now in its fifteenth year of schooling working class children, with a tried and competent staff, has at all times been supported by the voluntary aid of workers and working class organizations, among which your union has been a faithful contributor.

In the present deliberations, we hope to be remembered and to continue in the favor of your moral and financial support.

Yours for progress,

The Ferrer Modern School Inc.  
BALLY G. AXELROD,  
Cor. Sec'y.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

#### Resolution No. 101

Letter from the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society of America (Hias), 425-7 Lafayette St., New York:

December 1, 1929.

Mr. Abraham Baroff,  
Convention of the International  
Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Baroff:

Being unable to be represented at your Convention, we take the opportunity to write to you and to appeal to your Convention to take into consideration the very bad conditions existing in Eastern Europe which force our brothers to leave their native lands and to look for new places in which to establish themselves. Only a comparatively small number of these wanderers are allowed to enter the United States. But what about the greater number that are locked out? What shall be done to help them? We have no moral right to ignore their plight.

Hias which well knows the warm attitude of the American Jews towards their brothers in Europe and feels confident of their support, has established branches of their support, has established branches in a number of countries, such as Cuba, Brazil, Argentine, Uruguay, South Africa and Australia, where our people are able to enter and which hold out good prospects for them. These branches maintain information and employment bureaus and loan offices. Hias is doing everything in its power to help the Jewish immigrants and to relieve their hardships enroute and after their arrival.

In order to be able to continue this tremendous task, we now come to you for help, and earnestly ask your committee meeting on social problems to consider also the problem of Jewish immigration in conjunction with Hias activities.

Heartily wishing you success in all your plans and undertakings, we are,

Very truly yours,

ABRAHAM HERMAN,  
President.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

#### Resolution No. 102

December 3, 1929.

Benjamin Schlesinger, President International Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings: Your organization and ours have in the last two and one-half years borne the brunt of a ruthless and destructive enemy who was finally destroyed through the many sacrifices made by our memberships. Due to their loyalty and devotion, they have emerged victorious. Our great task

now is the rebuilding and reconstruction of our unions.

The fur workers appreciate the co-operation of your organization which has played an important part and helped us a great deal in our most critical moments. May we therefore take the liberty of suggesting to your convention that some plan be devised for the formation of some unit whereby both organizations may co-operate in the rebuilding of our unions? Permit me in behalf of the 10,000 fur workers of New York City to extend to you our heartiest congratulations and our sincere wish that the deliberations of your convention will be entirely successful.

FURRIERS JOINT COUNCIL OF N. Y.  
Chas. Stetsky, Manager.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 103

New York, N. Y., December 3, 1920.

B. Schlesinger, President International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

We appeal to you as to an ardent friend of our institution and as an intimate friend of our late lamented Doctor Spivak to use your great office in lending your influence to the end that our institution receives its full share of justice at the hands of your committees assigned to deliberating upon the merits of the various institutions in receiving the generosity of your organization. We have not sent any representatives to your convention and we plead with you to be the advocate of the three hundred and fifty sufferers who find a haven of relief in our institution which is the largest of its kind in the world.

HENRY ROSEN, Executive Director.  
Jewish Consumption Relief Society of  
Denver, Colo.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution No. 104

FIVE-DAY WEEK FOR GOVERNMENT  
EMPLOYEES

Introduced by Leon Hattab, Local No. 66, New York.

WHEREAS, a conference now in progress in Cleveland which embraces the representatives of business and labor and including economists, and

WHEREAS, as the representatives of business firms suggest the five day week as a remedy for unemployment, and

WHEREAS they suggest that President Hoover should set a precedent for the five day week by placing all government employees on that basis; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this convention respectfully petition the President of the United States to take the necessary steps to place all government employees on the five day week thereby enabling all forward looking industries to emulate his example.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

Communications

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U.,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

I am proud to extend my greetings to the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. I wish my International Union to emerge from this Convention much stronger and more powerful to fight our common enemy. Fraternally.

MORRIS WERTHEIMER,

Local No. 3 I. L. G. W. U., Ledger No. 9.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, O.:

I extend to the Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union my greetings and trust that its deliberations may result in further strengthening the Union and add to its remarkable achievements of the past year.

MORRIS ROTHENBERG,  
Philadelphia, Local No. 50.

New York, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings: We heartily congratulate the delegates to the Twentieth Convention. We consider this convention real jubilee. The International as a whole has been reborn again due to the success of the cloakmakers' strike. We therefore consider this convention a real victory. Wishing you success in your deliberations. Three cheers for the International and for our Big Ben.

CLOAK BUTTONHOLE MAKERS'  
UNION, LOCAL No. 61, I. L. G. W. U.

A. BRICK, Secretary.

New York, N. Y.

Public Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio:

The Twentieth Convention, I. L. G. W. U., greetings. May the hours spent in deliberation bring results that will be beneficial to all.

STAR HARRISON WORKERS, LOCAL  
41, TUCKERS AND HEMSTITCHERS

Philadelphia, Penn.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, O.:

We greet the officers and delegates of the Twentieth Convention of our International. May the solution of future problems lead

you to greater success to lighten the burdens and hardships of the workers of our industry.

ITALIAN CLOAK AND SUIT MAKERS'  
UNION, LOCAL No. 47, OF PHILA-  
DELPHIA.

Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

I have seen the Union in her glory and also in times of bitter struggle. I consider myself not only as a buttonhole-maker but as a member of the great International. Therefore, I am celebrating together with you the uplift of our beloved Union. I wish you success in your deliberations. Greetings.

A. BRICK,

Delegate and Member of Local No. 64.

Philadelphia, Penn.

International Ladies Garment Workers'  
Union:

The Waist and Dressmakers' Unions of Philadelphia, Local 50, sends its congratulations to the delegates of the Twentieth Convention of our International. We pray and hope that this convention will lay the foundation for a strong and powerful Union in Philadelphia and other centers. Above all we hope that our International Union will emerge with all its former beauty and strength and be again the guiding spirit for militancy and will again be the hope of all those who toil in ladies' garments shops for a better life filled with happiness and brotherhood. We wish you successful sessions and we are sure that your deliberations will be of great benefit to our movement.

WAIST AND DRESSMAKERS' UNION  
OF PHILADELPHIA, LOCAL No. 50.

EDITH KALISH, Chairlady.

Springfield, Ill.,  
November 25, 1929.

Mr. Benjamin Schlesinger, President,  
and

Mr. Abraham Baroff, General Sec'y-Treas.,  
International Ladies' Garment Workers'  
Union.

Gentlemen:

I am honored by the receipt of your invitation to address the Twentieth Regular Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, which convenes in Cleveland on Monday, December 2nd.

It is certainly kind of each of you to remember me in this way and I would be gratified indeed to accept the invitation if the affairs of the United Mine Workers of America permitted. I, however, and myself much involved with a number of matters which will preclude the possibility of my attending your convention. In lieu of my presence, I express to the delegates to your convention, and to the officers thereof, my best wishes that the convention will be successful in every way and make for sub-

stantial contribution to the material welfare of the loyal membership of your great organization. The mine workers of this country have a most sympathetic and brotherly feeling for the members of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and I take great pleasure in extending fraternal greetings.

Very truly yours,

JOHN L. LEWIS, President.  
United Mine Workers of America.

New York, N. Y., Dec. 3, 1929.  
International Ladies' Garment Workers' Con-  
vention.

We congratulate you on the revival that is taking place in your ranks. May the work of this Convention help to complete it. The whole labor movement will benefit by your success in building a powerful and progressive union in the ladies' garment trade. May your success in the future be even more glorious than your success in the past.

ADOLPH HELD.  
Chairman Rand School of Social Science.

Dayton, O., Dec. 3, 1929.  
Benjamin Schlesinger, President International  
Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

Heartly congratulations. Your prestige for the past several years with the International has been remarkable. The workers of the world acknowledge the hardships the International has had in past from enemies within and without. May your inspiration and energy be with the Ladies' Garment Workers' for many years to come.

WM. PARKER.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 3, 1929.  
I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio.

My best wishes for a successful convention and the upbuilding of our great International. Always with you.

H. S. BERNSTEIN,  
Manager, St. Louis Jewish Daily Forward.

New York, N. Y., Dec. 3, 1929.  
I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio.

For the first time in fifteen years I am not present at an International Convention and I can hardly express to you how deep my regret is. I am sincerely convinced that you are at the beginning of a new era of growth and progress. As you are planning and resolving the advancement of the membership keep your feet firmly on the ground bearing always in mind that your needs and the needs of your industry are inseparable. Nothing in the world may then stop your advance. Good luck to you all.

MAX DANISH.

New York, N. Y., Dec. 3, 1929.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

We extend our fraternal greetings to the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. We hope that this Convention will still more embody the feeling of friendship and co-operation between the members and our great International Union. We take the opportunity once more to pledge our great confidence and loyalty to our beloved International Union.

Fraternally,

THE WORKERS OF AMSTERDAM'S SHOP.

N. Y. Thaler, Acting Chairman.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 3, 1929.

Benjamin Schlesinger, President, I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Accept our heartiest congratulations and best wishes for the success of the twentieth biennial convention. We appreciate the splendid work that you have done for the American labor movement and for your International Union. We hope that this convention will bring better conditions for your members and the labor movement at large.

UNITED HEBREW TRADES OF CHICAGO.

Albert B. Green, Pres.,

Harry Roofer, Vice-Pres.,

M. Trubacov, Secretary.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings from the Cutters of Amsterdam, Inc.  
(No signature.)

Delegates I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. Good luck and victory to all endeavors of our International.

CUTTERS OF PHILIP SHLANSKY.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. Good luck for a complete victory in the dress industry.

CUTTERS OF THE GAIETY DRESS.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. Congratulations to you who have helped make our International a strong union for the workers of our industry.

CUTTERS OF WITTENBERG & SHIMBERG.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. We are confident that all your endeavors will meet with success and make for a strong union.

CUTTERS OF ZUCKERMAN & KRAUS.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Accept our greetings to the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. We fervently hope the great fight being conducted by our International Union in all cloak centers will terminate in a triumph over the combined enemies of our great organization.

Fraternally,

SAMPLE MAKERS' UNION.

Local No. 3, I. L. G. W. U.,

David Rubin, Manager.

Boston, Mass.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Heartfelt greetings to the Boston Cloak Makers to the officers and delegates of the Twentieth Convention of our International. The Cloak Makers in our city certainly lived through a trying period since the Boston Convention but we are happy to inform you that the dark days are left behind us and that there are all indications that with the closing of the present Convention we will regain our old strength and our influence in the ranks of labor. The loyal members of our Union are ready to give a helping hand to the members who are swayed by the destructive movement and who are coming back to the organization, realizing their mistake. We hope that with the help of this Convention and of the incoming General Executive Board we will organize the entire cloak trade in Boston and be of further service to our beloved International.

CLOAKMAKERS' UNION LOCAL 56.

Harry Feingold, Chairman,

Hyman Gordon, Secretary.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings to the leaders of our International. May you meet with much success and may all your efforts be crowned with victory.

CUTTERS OF AARON GOLDBSTEIN.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. We hope and trust that your deliberations may lead us on from one victory to another.

CUTTERS OF A. BELLER & CO.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

The cutters of Louis Cohen greet the delegates of the Twentieth Convention of our International. We wish to congratulate you upon the splendid success made in the cloak industry. We will be with you in all undertakings of our International in the future.

SAM GREENBERG, Chairman.



New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. Congratulations from the cutters of Bernstein & Co., Amalgamated Ladies' Garment Cutters' Association.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. Congratulations and good luck. May we see our International complete her undertakings successfully.

CUTTERS OF ROSIN & LEFKOWITZ

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. May we emerge victorious from our ensuing dress strike.

CUTTERS OF THE GREENBIRD DRESS

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings to the delegates of the Twentieth Convention from the cutters of Henry Fredricks.

AMALGAMATED LADIES' GARMENT CUTTERS' ASSOCIATION.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. May the present Convention bring success to the workers of our industry.

CUTTERS OF MAURICE BANDLER.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

The cutters of Charles Kondazian greet our delegates of this 20th Convention of our International. May our unified ranks bring back success.

CUTTERS OF CHARLES KONDAZIAN.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings to Twentieth Biennial Convention. Accept my best wishes for your success in all your future undertakings.

SAM HELLER,  
Active Member of Local No. 17.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. May your deliberations be crowned with success.

CUTTERS OF THE KAMY CLOAK.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings to Twentieth Biennial Convention. Accept my heartfelt congratulations

and wish for success in all your future undertakings.

ISAAC MAYEZY,  
Active Member of Local No. 17.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings to Twentieth Biennial Convention. Our shop is grateful to you for rechartering our Local 17 and so making us a part of the great family of locals of International.

THE WORKERS OF M. F. HANDLER.

Harry Steinberg Chairman.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Accept our hearty wishes that the Twentieth Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union be successful in its deliberations to bring about harmony in our great organization and better conditions for the members of our International.

EXECUTIVE BOARD, EXAMINERS, BEGRADERS AND BUSHELEER'S UNION,  
LOCAL No. 82.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings to the delegates of the 20th Convention of our International. You meet now with many important issues at hand of which one touches us greatly. May the approaching dress strike meet with much success.

CUTTERS OF WEISS AND FEIG  
DRESS COMPANY.

Boston, Mass.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Our heartfelt congratulations to the officers and delegates of our International assembled at special convention in Cleveland. We hope that this convention will draw a line of division between the past and the future. We regard this week's sessions as a period leading us from mere hopes to the realization of our desire to rebuild our Union and to reorganize our industry. Upon you and us lies the responsibility for the welfare of our families and for the good of every worker employed in the dress industry. Let us all work together for the successful completion of the aim recently outlined by our International, to bring about more harmonious relations among the workers employed in the Ladies Garment Industry. Let us all fight together till we regain the standards obtained by our International through years of sacrifice and privation. May this special convention re-establish unity in the ranks of our International. May it lead our membership undivided to the future glory of our

organization and to the emancipation of the working class.

**DRESS, SKIRT & WAISTMAKERS UNION, LOCAL 46.**

Abraham Grossman, Chairman,  
Jane A. Marra, Secretary.

Boston, Mass.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings of the Boston Cutters' Union 73 to delegates of our International in Cleveland. May this convention and the able leadership of our International rebuild our Union for the benefit of our members and of the entire labor movement. We were at all times staunch supporters of our Union and its policies and we pledge ourselves to do all in our power to uphold your deliberations.

**AMALGAMATED LADIES' GARMENT CUTTERS' UNION, LOCAL 73.**

Jacob Sprinsky,  
Chairman of Executive Board.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

To you, leaders of our International, who have overcome many storms, we send greetings. Your efforts in the dress industry will meet with victory.

**CUTTERS OF THE PUBLIC DRESS.**

Boston, Mass.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. Let this Convention bring new life to the entire membership of our International and give us new courage for rebuilding our Union hand in hand with the cloak operators. We will work for re-establishment of decent living conditions in the cloak industry of our city as well as throughout the entire country. We hope that the delegates assembled at this 20th Convention of our International will regain the confidence and support of every worker in the ladies' garments industry and that we will have once more a Union which the whole world will be proud of.

**BOSTON FINISHERS' UNION, LOCAL 39.**

Jacob Freed,  
Chairman of Executive Board.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. You have established confidence and trust in our membership. May we always be successful and our ensuing dress strike mark another victory for our International.

**CUTTERS OF BEN GERSHEL.**

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings to Twentieth Biennial Convention. Please accept our thanks for rechartering our Local 17 and for granting us the opportunity to be a part of the great family of Locals of International.

**WORKERS OF STYLE HEADGEAR,**  
Hyman Topel, Chairman.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. The cutters of Emmet Joyce feel confident that this Convention will terminate with much success for our workers.

**AMALGAMATED LADIES' GARMENT CUTTERS' ASSOCIATION.**

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. May our International establish in the dress industry the conditions and stability as it has done in the cloak industry.

**CUTTERS OF ZIMMERMAN DRESS.**

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

The cutters of Faber & Hein greet you and have full faith in this convention. We are with you in all your undertakings.

**CUTTERS OF FABER & HEIN.**

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. We are with you in the ensuing dress strike. May we emerge victorious.

**CUTTERS OF THE PEARLESS DRESS.**

Boston, Mass.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Accept my sincerest wishes and heartfelt congratulations to all delegates of the 20th Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. May your deliberations strengthen and fortify our reborn organization. I sincerely hope that all your endeavors and deliberations will be crowned with the greatest success.

J. A. MORABITO,  
Business Agent of Boston Joint Board.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

The Cloakmakers' Centre Club, composed of members of the International Union in New York City, congratulate the administration of the International Union on the occasion of its twentieth convention.

HARRY FEINGOLD, Chairman,  
MORRIS ELLISBERG, Secretary.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Heartiest congratulations to the delegates of the Twentieth Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. It is our sincere hope that this victory convention because of our marvelous rehabilitation and glorious achievements in the recent general strike which enabled us to regain our prestige and influence in the industry will open a new page in the history of our International, a page of further achievements on behalf of the large membership. Wishing you success in all your deliberations in the interest of the organization and its membership, we are,

EXECUTIVE BOARD,  
Local 2, I. L. G. W. U.,  
I. Atkin, Acting Manager.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. We look for victory in our dress strike. May your endeavor meet with as much success as it has in the past.

CUTTERS OF AYWON DRESS CO.

Philadelphia, Penn.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

The Philadelphia Joint Board of the Cloak and Dressmakers Union felicitates the delegates to the 20th convention. Please accept our best wishes for a successful session. May your deliberations be of great benefit to our International Union and the membership at large. We hope that with the rebirth of the Cloakmakers' Union in New York, the International will strengthen its forces throughout the country and again become one of the leading unions for progressive thought and action among the organized trade unions of America. Congratulations and best wishes.

JOINT BOARD CLOAK AND DRESSMAKERS' UNION OF PHILADELPHIA.

Aaron Einbinder, Secretary.

Chicago, Ill.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

To the officers and delegates of the 20th Biennial Convention. Accept our heartiest greetings and congratulations, best wishes for your continued success.

WATERPROOF GARMENT WORKERS' UNION, LOCAL No. 54, I. L. G. W. U.,  
Sol Feinberg, Chairman.

Chicago, Ill.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

We greet you in the name of our officers and members. May your deliberations be crowned with success.

CLOAK, SUIT AND DRESS PRESSERS' UNION, LOCAL No. 12, I. L. G. W. U.  
J. Hoffman, Chairman,  
A. Sudin, Secretary.

Warsaw, Poland.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Success to your convention and hope your union will carry on the proletarian class struggle and together with the whole socialist and labor movement of America will bring victory for our common ideal-Socialism.

CEKABUND AND NODELCENTRALE.

Philadelphia, Penn.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Heartiest congratulations and best wishes to the officers and delegates of the 20th Convention. May your deliberations bring cheer, joy and comfort into the lives and homes of tens of thousands of workers of our industry, who so eagerly and with throbbing heart look upon you for right guidance and council.

AMALGAMATED LADIES' GARMENT CUTTERS, Local No. 53 of Philadelphia.

Philadelphia, Penn.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings to the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. May the spirit of unity and peace prevail among the membership as well as delegates and may this convention lead the way to progress and success for the welfare of our members. Stand united and success is inevitable.

CLOAK AND SKIRT MAKERS' UNION,  
Local No. 40 of Philadelphia.

Philadelphia, Penn.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Heartiest greetings to the officers and delegates of the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. In this trying time of our International Union, your deliberations and policies must be all embracing. May your keen judgment and action bring about a united union with a full quota of membership in the future as in the past.

JOINT BOARD CLOAK AND DRESSMAKERS' UNION OF PHILADELPHIA.

Samuel Rudin, Chairman.

Chicago, Ill.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings to the officers and delegates of the 20th Biennial Convention. Our heartiest congratulations for the glorious accomplishments of our International. To us this convention is a jubilee gathering to celebrate the victorious achievements so wonderfully demonstrated during the last general strike in New York. Long live the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union for more and still greater success for its membership. May your deliberations be harmonious and constructive.

CHICAGO JOINT BOARD, I. L. G. W. U.,  
M. A. Goldstein, Secretary-Treasurer.

Chicago, Ill.

Benjamin Schlesinger, President I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

In behalf of the Chicago and Western editions of Forward, we hail the 20th Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union of America and wish it great success in its deliberations. We join in the chorus of praise for the splendid achievements of the International under your regime and wish that you will continue to march onward and onward until the final goal is reached.

VICTOR I. LEVINSON, JACOB SIEGEL.

Long Island City, N. Y.

Benjamin Schlesinger, President International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Convention, Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings on behalf of the International Fur Workers' Union. I wish to congratulate you upon your success in rebuilding your organization and uniting the workers in the Ladies' Garment Industry into a loyal and fighting army for a better living and a more just society. The International Fur Workers' Union has since its inception regarded your organization as its older sister and ally in time of peace as in time of industrial strife. May your deliberations result in bringing about a higher standard of living for your membership and a stronger and unconquerable International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. Permit me to assure you that the International Fur Workers' Union is ready to co-operate with you whenever called upon. With best fraternal greetings.

H. BEGOON, Secretary-Treasurer,  
International Fur Workers' Union.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Heartiest congratulations to our 20th Convention. We wish you success in your further struggles.

WORKERS OF SPENCER DRESS SHOP.

Terenzapf Chairman.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

My hearty greetings to the officers and delegates assembled in convention. You can be proud of your recent achievements. Best wishes for the future.

MEYER PERLSTEIN.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Accept my heartiest wishes for a successful convention. It is my hope that your deliberations may complete the structure of a revitalized union cemented by complete har-

mony and a determination to make the International the most potent factor in the American labor movement.

SAMUEL MARKEWICH.

Philadelphia, Penn.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Accept our heartiest greetings to the 20th Convention of our International. May this convention be imbued with the spirit of unity, loyalty and sincerity and may success follow all your undertakings.

WORKERS OF EDELSON CLOAK SHOP,  
PHILADELPHIA,

Alex Cutler, Chairman.

Philadelphia, Penn.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

The workers of Feingold's Cloak Shop of Philadelphia greet the officers and delegates of the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. We hope you will continue in your undertakings to uphold and strengthen our organization for the advancement of the workers of our industry.

WORKERS OF FEINGOLDS CLOAK SHOP,  
PHILADELPHIA, PA.,

David Silverstein, Chairman.

Boston, Mass.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

The Italian members of the International in the Cloak and Dress Industry of Boston send their brotherly greetings to the officers and delegates assembled in convention at Cleveland. We hope that this convention will draw conclusions and accept measures, which will lead our members out of privation into industrial prosperity. It is our sincere hope that after this convention the workers in our industry will solidify their ranks and will meet their common enemy, the employing class, and fight until industrial democracy is achieved.

ITALIAN CLOAK AND DRESSMAKERS'  
UNION, LOCAL 80.

Vincenzo Pedulla, Secretary.

Chicago, Ill.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

It is with pride and joy that I greet the officers and delegates of this 20th Biennial Convention. Your splendid work in the past convinces me that your deliberations at this convention will be successful.

MAX NOVACK.

Member of Local No. 5, I. L. G. W. U.

Chicago, Ill.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

We greet you at this victory convention and we rejoice with you in the splendid



results of the rebuilding of the International. Proceed towards still greater achievements.  
**WORKERS OF HANDMAKER & MICHEL  
 CLOAK SHOP, CHICAGO.**

Dave Golden, Shop Chairman.  
 Max Graffman, Harry Rosen, Committee:

New York, N. Y.  
 Benjamin Schlesinger, President, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

We are requested by Central Committee of Bund, in Poland, and editor of Folk Zeitung to convey to International Convention and yourself sincerest greetings and best wishes of the whole organized Jewish labor movement in Poland. The scores of thousands of Jewish workmen who fight their incessant battles under the standard of the Bund follow with greatest interest progress of your organization and were overjoyed to hear that your greatest trials are over and that today your only problem is that of constructive and effective organization. We do hope that when your International and its many affiliated bodies will be again in a healthy state, they will again renew the assistance to our press and our movement, which they have given us in the past on so many occasions.

**HILFSVERBAND BUND.**  
 David Meyer, Chairman.  
 B. C. Vladeck, Treasurer.

New York, N. Y.  
 I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:  
 Greetings from the Cutters of Samuel Florsheim. We are proud of the success which has been made by our International in the last Cloak and Suit victory. May our union meet with the same success in the coming dress struggle.

Chicago, Ill.  
 I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:  
 The Cloak and Suit Finishers Union of Local No. 39 extend their heartfelt congratulations. We are confident that our International will carry on its good work in the interest of our members. We hope and trust that harmony, solidarity and unity will remain in our ranks. Long live the International.

**CLOAK AND SUIT FINISHERS' UNION,**  
 LOCAL No. 39, I. L. G. W. U.  
 H. Rufer, Chairman.  
 M. Trubakoff, Secretary.

Chicago, Ill.  
 I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:  
 Congratulations and best wishes on your 20th Biennial Convention. May your delibera-

tions prove successful in the future as they have in the past.

**CLOAK, SUIT AND DRESS CUTTERS  
 LOCAL No. 81**  
 S. Lederman, Chairman.  
 I. Schuckerman, Secretary.

Toronto, Ont.  
 I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:  
 Greetings. We hail the victory over all destructive forces in our International. May the rally of the New York Cloakmakers and victorious strike be a guide to the workers in all other branches of our beloved International. Constructive improvements in the lives of our members is our glorious record of the past. May your deliberations bring about many more improvements on these manifold achievements.  
**JOINT BOARD CLOAK AND DRESSMAKERS' UNION.**  
 Bernard Shane, Chas. Schatz, Chairmen.

New York, N. Y.  
 I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:  
 Heartiest greetings to the Twentieth Convention of our International. Congratulations upon the successful solidification of our Union and upon the successful showing in the recent Cloak and Suit struggle. We wish you success in your future endeavors in the dress and other industries.  
**PHIL ORETSKY,  
 MAX GORDON,**  
 Local No. 10.

Chicago, Ill.  
 I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:  
 Greetings. The Executive Board of Local No. 5, I. L. G. W. U. extend their heartfelt congratulations to the delegates of the 20th Convention. We are confident our International will carry on its good work in the interest of our workers. We trust this convention will place our International as one of the leading organizations in the labor movement.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD OF LOCAL No. 5,**  
 Jack Lotterman, Secretary.  
 Dave Borowitz, Chairman.

Boston, Mass.  
 I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:  
 Greetings to the delegates of the 20th Convention of our International. Hope this convention will solidify the ranks of our union and imbue the workers in the cloak and dress industry with a new spirit. May the achievements of this convention bring more harmony to our members and more happiness to our families.

**CLOAK AND DRESS PRESSERS, LOCAL 12,**  
 Julius Glassman, Chairman of Executive Board,  
 Morris Cohen, Secretary.

Chicago, Ill.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

It is with joy that we greet you on this jubilee convention. Accept our congratulations and best wishes for your continued success and progress.

DRESS MAKERS' UNION, LOCAL No. 100,  
I. L. G. W. U.,

B. Schaffer, Chairman.  
E. SPINK, Secretary.

Philadelphia, Penn.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Heartiest congratulations to the Twentieth Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. May each and every delegate be imbued with the spirit of solidarity and unity, be positive and concise in the deliberations, in legislative policies of this convention, and bring advancement to the workers of our industry.

CLOAK AND DRESS PRESSERS,  
Local No. 71 of Philadelphia.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

We, the Cutters of the Anna Duke Costume, greet the delegates of the Twentieth Convention of the International Union. We have taken courage from your wonderful showing by being organized on the eve of your splendid gathering. We are with you in the coming struggle in the dress industry and are confident with you that victory is ours.

CUTTERS OF ANNE DUKE COSTUME.

San Francisco, Calif.

B. Schlesinger, President, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

Accept my sincerest wishes for a prolonged life and best of health, enabling you to lend our Union to a solid strength. Trusting that this convention will bring good results to our workers.

J. J. MENCOFF, President,  
Local 8, I. L. G. W. U., San Francisco.

San Francisco, Calif.

B. Schlesinger, President, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

Local No. 8 greets you at this Convention of our International. We feel certain that you will give our local all assistance needed. The field is ripe for union work. Long life to our International.

B. GUTHERTZ,  
Secretary.

Local 8, I. L. G. W. U., San Francisco.

Los Angeles, Cal.

Convention Hall, I. L. G. W. U.,  
Cleveland, Ohio:  
Cloak Makers' Union, Local Sixty-five, Los

Angeles, wishes to extend their greetings to the officers and delegates of the Twentieth Convention of our International. Success in your deliberations and victory in all your undertakings. Long life our International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

NATHAN MINTZ, Manager.

Cleveland, Ohio.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Your assembly is vigorous and fine. Your victory testifies to the workers' confidence in you and your cause. Warmest congratulations.

C. H. KELLER, Member Cutters Local No. 42.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

The General Executive Committee of the Jewish National Workers Alliance extends its heartiest greetings and sincere wishes for successful convention. We look with pride upon the achievements of your organization since your last convention. We are sure that in the future you will be successful in your good work for your membership and the entire labor movement.

GENERAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

J. N. W. A.

Meyer Brown, President.  
Louis Segal, Secretary.

Philadelphia, Penn.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings to Twentieth Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. May your deliberations be constructive and your past noble deeds lead to success in all your undertakings.

CLOAK AND SKIRT FINISHERS,  
Local No. 60 of Philadelphia.

Cleveland, Ohio.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Executive Board of Skirt Makers' Union, Local Twenty-three, extends its greetings and best wishes to the officers and delegates of this Twentieth Convention. May this convention be most glorious in its deliberations, constructive spirit and achievements.

LOUIS REISS,

Chairman Executive Board,  
4 Local 23.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. We wish you success in the solution of the problems of the International.

WORKERS OF MYERSON BROS.,  
Local 41, I. L. G. W. U.

## Chicago, Ill.

I. L. O. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Heartiest congratulations to the officers and delegates of the Convention. We are proud of the splendid results of our International. May your deliberations bring still greater success.

WORKERS OF H. SCHUMAN & BROS.,  
Chicago,

ABE GOLD, Shop Chairman.

## New York, N. Y.

I. L. O. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. May the deliberations of this convention bring inspiration and results that will hearten us, who have remained here and await the outcome of the Convention.

EXECUTIVE BOARD, LOCAL 41,  
TUCKERS AND REMSTITCHERS.

## New York, N. Y.

Benj. Schlesinger, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

The Mexican Federation of Labor greets you and wishes you success.

ROBERTO HABERMAN,  
General Delegates of the Cram  
in the United States.

## New York, N. Y.

International Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

Kindly extend my heartiest congratulations to the officers and delegates of the Twentieth Convention. I deeply regret that I am unable to be with you on this momentous occasion to participate in the great work that lies before you. I sincerely wish that all personalities will be set aside and that harmony and unity will prevail for the benefit of our members.

HERMAN GROSSMAN.

## New York, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. May this Convention result in complete satisfaction to your organization and may you accomplish all you are out to do.

HYAS ABRAHAM HERMAN,  
President.

## New York, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

Accept my best wishes and heartiest congratulations in your deliberations.

BENJAMIN TOLKOFF,  
Member Local 9.

## New York, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. Heartiest congratulations on your Twentieth Convention. Wishing you success in your deliberations.

M. LEBOW,  
Member of Local No. 64.

## New York, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

The cutters of B. Heller greet you delegates to the Twentieth Convention of our International. We wish you success in your deliberations. We have confidence that you will emerge with the victory which has always been ours.

AMALGAMATED LADIES' GARMENT  
CUTTERS ASSOCIATION.

## New York, N. Y.

International Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

The workers of M. Schwartz and Brothers, members of Local 91, greet the delegates of the Twentieth Biennial Convention. May your deliberations bring success to our International. We, the Children's Dressmakers, await the calling of the general strike. We depend upon your hearty endorsement.

SHOP COMMITTEE,  
IDA SNOFSKY, Chairlady.

## New York, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings to the delegates to the Convention. We rejoice with you in the splendid showing of our International and upon your return, we shall celebrate with you the victory of the Dress Industry which will be ours.

CUTTERS OF L. MARGULIES.

## New York, N. Y.

International Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings to the delegates. May the spirit of true brotherhood and solidarity predominate at this momentous gathering. Long live our President, Benjamin Schlesinger.

SAM ETKIND,  
Member Local No. 22, Ledger 4.

## New York, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings to the officers and delegates of the 20th Bi-annual Convention of our International. May you achieve the utmost suc-

cess in all your endeavors for the improvement of conditions for all the workers in our industry.

EXECUTIVE BOARD, LOCAL 48,  
ITALIAN CLOAKMAKERS' UNION,  
NEW YORK.

CHARLES CHIARCHIARRO,  
Acting Manager.

New York, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings to all delegates of this convention. May our International keep its foothold in the labor movement and meet with as much victory in its coming undertakings as it has in the past.

JACOB WHITE, Local No. 10.

New York, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

Employees of Troy Cloak Company, 203 West 40th St., New York City, wish you success in the cause of the workers.

I. RISBERG, Chairman,

H. BANK, Secretary,

AND COMMITTEE.

New York, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. You are gathered under successful circumstances and we trust that your deliberations will be crowned with further successes.

CUTTERS OF THE CROWN CLOAK CO.

New York, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. Congratulations upon your great achievement in the cloak industry. Wishing that you may be successful for all other crafts in our organization.

MOE FALIKMAN,

MORRIS ALOVIS,

Local No. 10.

New York, N. Y.

International Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

As manager of the Harlem District, I wish to express the feelings of the entire membership of my district. We wish the Twentieth Convention complete success. Always remember solidarity and fraternal co-operation. Long live our International and our dear President Schlesinger.

MIKE MARICANDA, Mgr. Harlem Office.

New York, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

The membership of Cloak Makers, Branch S. P. wish you success in your constructive work.

MAX PROBSTEN, Secretary.

New York, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings and heartfelt congratulations to the Twentieth Convention of our International. May your deliberations be crowned with further successes.

BENJAMIN EVRY,

Cutters' Union, Local No. 10.

New York, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

We salute the delegates to our present convention of the International. We are confident that your deliberations in our dress industry will equal the victorious outcome of our cloak industry.

CUTTERS OF WILKIN & ADLER.

New York, N. Y.

International Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

Forty thousand dressmakers of Greater New York are awaiting your signal to liberate themselves from sweatshop conditions. We hope you will do everything to lead us to victory. Greetings to all.

JOE RABINOWITZ,

Member Local No. 22, Ledger 13.

New York, N. Y.

International Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

The office of the Dressmakers' Union, Local No. 22, has completed arrangements to handle efficiently the approaching enrollment of new applicants. We can take care of 25,000. Shall we make it 40,000? We will do our share cheerfully. Greetings to the leader of leaders, Benjamin Schlesinger, and all assembled delegates.

N. M. MNKOFF AND STAFF.

New York, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings to the delegates of the Twentieth Convention. May your present efforts meet with success for a strong union.

CUTTERS OF WM. H. DAVIDOW.



International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

Heartiest congratulations from the Laundry Drivers' Union, Local No. 54 of the International Teamsters' Union of America.

P. H. FELDMAN, President.

J. ROBBINS, Secretary.

New York, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

The striking cutters of Freed Brothers greet the delegates to the Twentieth Convention of the International from the firing-line. We congratulate you upon your splendid showing and are confident that you, as well as we, will succeed.

ABR. REISS,

Chairman of Cutters, Freed Bros.

Montreal, Que.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

The Montreal Joint Board and locals extend heartiest congratulations on this memorable occasion. May the revival of our Union and its increased activities in the United States and Canada inspire you and lead you to even greater achievements.

M. WAISER,

S. SENDEROVITZ.

Baltimore, Md.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

Congratulations to the Twentieth Convention of our International. Hoping that you will succeed in every respect and do all in your power to help organize the Cloakmakers of our city.

I. VANGER,

Secretary Local No. 4, Baltimore, Md.

Brooklyn, N. Y.

Benjamin Schlesinger,  
International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

Delegates assembled at New York City Convention of the Socialist Party send you fraternal greetings. Your successful return to the position of leadership in the Labor Movement is an inspiration to every friend of progress. May your deliberation result in long years of uninterrupted achievement towards a better social system for all who labor.

MARX LEWIS,

Executive Secretary, Socialist Party.

Montreal, Que.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. May your deliberations at this

Twentieth Convention add more strength and bring greater achievement to your organization.

MONTREAL JOINT BOARD  
AMALGAMATED CLOTHING  
WORKERS OF AMERICA.

H. KLIGMAN, Manager.

Benj. Schlesinger, I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland,  
Ohio:

Congratulations on Union's achievements. Wish you good congress, fighting power and comradeship.

VANDERHEEG.

St. Louis, Mo.

I. L. G. W., Cleveland, Ohio:

Accept our heartiest congratulations and best wishes to our Twentieth Biennial Convention. May your deliberations and decisions for our entire membership be crowned with great success.

ST. LOUIS CLOAK MAKERS' UNION.

Montreal, Que.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

The members of St. Louis Labor Club, Montreal, congratulate the officers and members of the I. L. G. W. U. on this memorable occasion. May all your efforts meet with success.

ALDERMAN J. SCHUBERT.

A. VELICOVITZ.

New York, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings: Accept our best and heartiest congratulations on the 20th Biennial Convention of our International. May you achieve the utmost success in all your endeavors for the improvement of conditions for the workers in our industry.

STAFF, AMERICAN AND INDEPENDENT  
DEPARTMENT, JOINT BOARD  
CLOAKMAKERS' UNION, NEW YORK.

CHARLES ARONSKY, Acting Mgr.

New York, N. Y.

Benjamin Schlesinger, President, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

Bookkeepers', Stenographers' and Accountants' Union, New York, sends hearty congratulations and wishes your Convention all possible success with great personal esteem.

ERNEST BOHM, Secretary.

New York, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

Heartiest congratulations. One of the thou-

sands of workers who depends upon your work and success.

PAULINE COHEN,  
No. 5022, Member Local No. 9.

New York, N. Y.

Benjamin Schlesinger, President, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

It is with a feeling of mingled pleasure and satisfaction that we extend the greetings of the officers and directors of the International Madison Bank and Trust Company to the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union upon the occasion of its Twentieth Biennial Convention. We are glad of the opportunity to join with you in celebrating the momentous achievements of the past year and share your jubilation in the rebuilding of your organization. There can be no better opportunity than this to voice our congratulations upon the splendid work of your leaders in reorganizing the cloak trade and in establishing working conditions which are serving to restore the organization to its former position of power and prestige. Though changing circumstances have diverted controlling power of the International Madison Bank and Trust Company, we cannot for a moment fail to recall and appreciate that it was the idealism and enterprise of your membership which first brought it into being. Please accept our sincere wishes for the success of your deliberations and it is our firm hope that the Union will go on towards even greater successes and that it will continue to be one of the outstanding factors in the American labor movement, a place it has so rightfully earned.

SOLOMON FILLIN, President.  
PHILLIP KAPLOWITZ, Vice-Pres.

New York, N. Y.

Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. May the spirit of harmony and solidarity be your sole guide. The Dressmakers of New York are hopefully awaiting your unanimous decisions for a general strike and the re-establishment of a Dress Joint Board. Felicitations to our esteemed President and all assembled delegates.

M. MOSKOWITZ AND STAFF,  
DRESS DEPT., N. Y.

New York, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. Heartfelt wishes for a successful convention. We sincerely hope the delegates will help solve the problem confronting membership of Local 62.

WHITE GOODS WORKERS,  
UNION LOCAL 62.

New York, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. Accept our heartfelt wishes for a successful Convention, which will lead our great International to its former splendor. We hope that brotherly spirit will prevail in your deliberations and in the future undertakings of our International.

STRIKERS OF FREED BROS., NEW  
YORK JOINT BOARD,  
SAM STARR, Shop Chairman.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

American Association for Old Age Security sends you heartfelt greetings and best wishes. Deeply appreciate splendid help given by officers of the I. L. G. W. We plead for continuation of support in order that the terror of old age may be removed. We need help of the I. L. G. W. in order to enact god law in New York in 1930.

A. EPSTEIN, Secretary.

New York, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

Our local, having danced the first communist waltz, is glad at this time to extend heartfelt wishes and congratulations to the mother organization for its accomplishments in emerging from the chaos and again fighting labor's cause among the other civilized armies of the Jewish and American labor movement. We stand before you delegates of the 20th Convention body erect and with a clear conscience, place our hands to our hearts pledging our loyalty and devotion to the world of labor in general and particularly to our International, which so vigorously, with the aid of the local leadership, conducted the internal battle of darkness and victoriously led the recent general strike of the New York Cloakmakers.

EXECUTIVE BOARD CLOAK FINISHERS  
UNION, LOCAL No. 9, I. L. G. W. U.

Worcester, Mass.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

With gladness we greet you in our successful Convention. We were with you in the struggle against the Red Fascist and we are with you until the final emancipation of the working class.

CLOAK & DRESS MAKERS' UNION,  
LOCAL 75.

New York, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

Brother President, Sisters and Brothers: The members and officers of the International

al Pocketbook Workers' Union who were with you in your hours of trial and tribulations are now with you in your days of re-birth. You have demonstrated to the world that a good cause can never lose out. All that is necessary is idealism and patient endurance. You had both and you had virile leadership. On all these things we congratulate you. May your next Convention celebrate the complete annihilation of your enemies and the establishment of an era of progress and prosperity to your great membership. Accept the personal affectionate and comradely greetings of

A. L. SHIPLACOFF, Manager.

New York, N. Y.

Benjamin Schlesinger, President, 20th Biennial Convention, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

May this 20th Biennial Convention mark the beginning of a new era of rejuvenation and solidification of our Union which needs co-operation of all its members to whom you, their leader, has to show always good example. Remember that among the important problems you are engaged to solve, the most important and urgent, are the reorganization of all Dressmakers for the formation of the New York Dress Joint Board and the complete organization of the Italians, working in the Ladies' Garment Industry. Remember that the Dressmakers, who constitute a large part of our International, are on the eve of a great strike which needs all your spiritual and material support in order to terminate as victoriously, if not more, as our glorious Cloak Makers' strike. Remember that unity and concord are essential in this great task and in all your other endeavors and if only you will be animated by solidarity and sincere union spirit, if you will work in harmony, you will surely make our beloved union again triumphant for the betterment of the conditions of all our members, for the destruction of the open shop and for the rebuilding of a stronger and greater International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. It is our earnest wish that all your undertakings towards the emancipation of the labor class be crowned with the greatest success.

EXECUTIVE BOARD, ITALIAN DRESS AND WAIST MAKERS' UNION, LOCAL 89.

New York, N. Y.

Cleveland, Ohio:

The employees of the New York Joint Board wish you success in your deliberations. May harmony and good will prevail in your ranks and your efforts to improve the economic conditions of your great membership be crowned with success.

NEW YORK JOINT BOARD CLERICAL STAFF.

Detroit, Mich.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

Your spectacular comeback has thrilled every true friend of the Labor Movement. May your future be still more triumphant and more glorious than your past.

JEWISH BRANCH SOCIALIST PARTY.

Boston, Mass.

International Garment Workers' Union, Public Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio:

Accept heartfelt wishes of the Boston Cloak and Dressmakers to the officers and delegates of the 20th Convention of our International. May your deliberations and your decisions start new history in the life of our union, may your wisdom and practical experience lead our union out of the present calamity into a new era of better understanding between brother and brother. Let the spirit of the old union solidarity and brotherly love prevail again in our International as in its old pioneer years. Let the future high spirited existence of our International prove to our membership and to the working class of the entire world that our union is worthy of the sacrifices brought by our great membership and that great returns will be reaped by our members after the International has regained its strength and its glory on the industrial field. Long live the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

BOSTON JOINT BOARD, CLOAK, SKIRT AND DRESSMAKERS' UNION, Locals 12, 39, 46, 56, 73, 80.

Samuel Spiegel, Chairman.

New York, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

Success in your work is the sincere wish of Branch 24 Workmen's Circle, New York, also health to your beloved President, Benjamin Schlesinger. Yours for the International Union.

HARRY WEISSGLASS, Secretary.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Be greeted delegates to the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. The glory and success of our union is in your hands. Especially now when our International is on its way to recovery from the wounds of five years of strife. Brother Schlesinger, it remains with you, the old guard of the locals 10-17-33 and 48 and their delegates to bring back to our union the glory which was here in 1919 when it was the model for all the unions of the world. As a member since 1903 I pledge my efforts to the best of my ability, as I have done in the past, for the honor and

glory of the I. L. G. W. U. Let us all be united for the victory of our International and the Dressmakers' strike. Fraternally.

P. MUCCIGROSSO,  
Business Agent of Local No. 48.

New York, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings to the delegates of the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. assembled in Cleveland, Ohio, the Executive Board of the Children's Dress and House Dressmakers' Union, Local 91, extends its greetings and fraternal wishes to the delegates of the 20th Convention in the spirit of the great accomplishments in the recent Cloakmakers' strike. The convention shall decide its future activities and among the decisions, the approval of the calling of the general strike in the Children's Dress Industry. Its members of the Executive Board and in the name of our entire membership, we rejoice with you the rebirth of the International and its glorious achievements. We wish you success in your deliberations.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF LOCAL 91,  
Harry Greenberg, Managing Secretary.

New York, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

We, the workers of Libby Dress Company, newly organized children's dress shop, send our greetings to the International Convention, Local 91, in organizing our shops in the month of November, reduced the hours of labor from forty-eight to forty-two hours a week and obtained for us a general increase in wages. It is our first opportunity to learn the meaning of Union and as such we are sending our greetings to this Convention.

SUSIE DORSER, Chairlady.

New York, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

We, the Brownsville members of Local 91, being the pioneers of our union, extend our heartiest greetings and congratulations to the officials and delegates of this convention. Our union is preparing for the coming general strike in the Children's Dress Trade. We depend upon the delegates of this convention to give us their approval and encouragement for the great task. We are ready to fight for our union and we are sure of success. It is true that our membership consists of women and girls but when it comes to a battle, we are no slackers. We wish you success in all your undertakings.

BROWNSVILLE BRANCH OF LOCAL 91,  
Ida Finkelstein, Pearl Raskin, Minnie Perkel,  
Max Koppel, Betty Bromberg, M. Levine and  
Minnie Kerstein, Committee.

New York, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

Please, accept heartiest greetings to the 20th Biennial Convention. The membership of our organization is rejoicing with you the celebration of the great victories accomplished by the able leadership of the International. We are certain that the convention will continue its deliberations in a spirit of harmony. Our membership will surely demonstrate their appreciation for your kind action toward them in loyalty, devotion and co-operation, in all your future undertakings. Fraternally yours,

INFANT CHILDREN, COAT AND REEFER  
MAKERS' UNION, LOCAL 17.

Louis Lipsky, Secretary.

New York, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

Congratulations to the 20th Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

EXECUTIVE BOARD,  
LOCAL NO. 2, I. L. G. W. U.

New York, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings to the delegates of this unified Convention of our International. The progress that our organization has made in this past year gives courage to the mass of our membership. We are confident that you will emerge from your deliberations in the manner which has made our Union the beacon light for progress. We wish you great success in the further progress towards unification and towards a Union, which, as always, will meet the desires of our membership and the progress of the labor movement.

EXECUTIVE BOARD, LOCAL NO. 10,

NATHAN SAUERSTEIN, Chairman.  
Pro Tem.

New York, N. Y.

Benjamin Schlesinger, President, I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

We, the workers of R. & K. Regulation Dress, members of Local 91, send to you and through you to the delegates of the Twentieth Convention, our heartiest greetings. As the president of our International, you have led the Cloakmakers to victory. As members of Local 91, we hope and believe that you will likewise lead us to victory in the coming general strike as you led the Cloakmakers. May this Convention bring forth decisions which tend towards bringing the International to the highest plane possible.

RAYMOND ORSINI, Chairman.



Montclair, N. J.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

Heartiest congratulations to your Twentieth Convention. May mutual confidence and trust crown your work.

I. GRAFF,

Ex-Member of Local No. 82, Caldwell, N. J.

Mountain Dale, N. Y.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Great success in re-establishing union conditions in our trades for benefit of our members.

LOUIS GORDON, Member Local 23.

## Fourth Day—Thursday Morning Session

Cleveland, Ohio, December 5, 1929

The convention was called to order at 10 o'clock by President Schlesinger.

Secretary Baroff read a number of telegrams and communications received since the adjournment of the previous session which are printed in full further on.

Upon motion of Vice-President Joseph Breslau the telegram from R. Schwartz, manager of the Ex-Patients Sanitarium, asking assistance, was referred to the Committee on Resolutions. Vice-President Breslau also extended the greetings of that institution to the Convention.

A resolution dealing with the manufacture of underwear in the Philippine Islands and Porto Rico, and calling for an investigation to be made by the American Federation of Labor, was referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

President Schlesinger appointed the following committee to escort Abraham Cahan, Editor of the Jewish Daily Forward, from the Hotel Winton to the Auditorium: Vice-Presidents Greenberg and J. Halperin, B. Kaplan of Local No. 2, N. Kirtzman of Local No. 9, and Sister Beckie Stein of Local No. 59.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** We have with us a representative of the Jewish Socialist Verband, who has been selected to extend greetings to our convention. I know very well, and so does every delegate and every member of our International, what they have done for our organization during the years when the Communist confusion existed. They did practically all they could do, and the convention would not be complete if one of their officers had not come to address

us. I am particularly glad that they selected Comrade Litwack, who is known not only to the workers in this country but in Europe as well. He was one of the leaders of the Socialist movement in the olden days in Russia, and he is one of the best writers and speakers that we have in the Labor movement in this country as well as on the other side.

I am glad that Comrade Litwack is here because he has something to tell us. As a matter of fact we discussed it a little yesterday. He said something of it in the Socialist Verband publication, the "Wecker" a while ago, but naturally one cannot say in a publication as much as one would say when he speaks in public.

I want to tell Comrade Litwack that this convention is absolutely free. He can say whatever he pleases. We don't care if he criticizes us; in fact we want to be criticized. We want criticism just as much as we want praise, and personally I want more criticism than praise.

Mr. Litwack addressed the Convention in Yiddish. The International, he said, need not fear criticism, particularly when it comes from such a friendly source as the Socialist Verband and its officials. It is always necessary, he said, to listen to the complaints of the masses and satisfy them as much as is possible. A satisfied membership creates a powerful army and indicates good generalship. If the mass is not satisfied, he said, we have generals without an army. He explained that the Socialist Verband does not necessarily lend credence to every complaint that comes in, but it does not close its doors to such complaints. He assured the convention that

the Verband does not interfere in small matters nor is it its intention to carp and cavil about insignificant shortcomings. He praised the International for the fight conducted against the Communists. The Verband was glad to help in this fight.

The speaker urged that the International adopt the German system of Socialist and Trade Union relations. There the trade unions and the Socialist Party are always in touch with each other and confer and advise on important matters in the unions or in the Party. A union cannot live by bread alone, he said. It must have a soul to inspire and enthuse its membership. He urged the necessity of a labor party in America, pointing out that in other countries where labor is politically active, there are such governmental benefits as unemployment insurance, old age and ill-health insurance. He hoped that the International would become a cornerstone in the labor movement of America.

J. Miller, member of Local 2, who arrived as representative of the Deborah Jewish Consumptives Relief Society, addressed the convention and appealed for relief to that institution.

Thomas C. Devine of the Department of Industrial Relations of the State of Ohio, addressed the convention on the work of his department in the inspection of public buildings for sanitary conditions, the inspection of child and woman labor conditions, and of their work in trying to avoid occupational diseases and infections from injuries received at work.

Vice-President Julius Hochman, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, began to report. He was interrupted by the entrance of Mr. Abraham Caban, editor of the Forward, and Mr. James Maurer, representative of the Socialist Party and veteran of the labor movement. The audience arose and applauded as the guests were escorted to the platform.

#### General Strike in Philadelphia

The report of the Resolutions Committee:

Your Committee received Resolution No. 60, introduced by the Philadelphia delegation, the resolves of which read:

RESOLVED, that the Convention instruct the Incoming General Executive Board upon adjournment of this Convention to immediately inaugurate a vigorous Philadelphia organization campaign on a large scale with the view of terminating this campaign with a general strike; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this convention endorse this general strike for the waist and dress industry of Philadelphia and that it be called simultaneously with the general strike of the New York dress industry, since one market affects the other and it will be to the mutual advantage of both centers.

The Philadelphia Dressmakers' Union at one time was one of the banner organizations of our International. Its history is filled with great and dramatic struggles, events and achievements in the interest of the workers of the waist and dress industry in the City of Philadelphia.

Between 1916 and 1921, the waist and dress industry of Philadelphia was practically under complete control of the local organization. But, in the sway of the open shop campaign, conducted by the reactionary forces of this country in an attempt to smash the Labor Movement, the Waist & Dress Manufacturers' Association of Philadelphia fell under its influence and challenged the very existence of the Union. In a series of demands presented to the Union, the Association practically demanded the abolition of all standards and conditions, which the Union acquired through many years of its existence. The members rejected these demands and a general strike was called, which lasted 26 weeks. During this time, the workers of the waist and dress industry of Philadelphia displayed a remarkable loyalty and devotion to the Union and its principles. Unfortunately, the waist industry disappeared from the City and owing to the general industrial depression then prevalent, the Union was forced to give up the strike against the Association.

Since that time, the Union has never been able to come back to its former self. Notwithstanding these difficulties, the members are devoted to the Union

and loyal to the International. Their readiness to sacrifice keeps them together in an army prepared for the signal to go out and start the rebuilding of the Waist & Dressmakers' Union in Philadelphia.

The G. E. B. in its report to the convention on Page 92, in discussing the Philadelphia situation, under the heading "Dressmakers Next," voices the belief that the field is ripe for one hundred per cent organization and the workers are ready to begin a final drive in order to achieve it.

Your Committee is in accord with the spirit and request of Resolution 60 and therefore recommends that this convention endorse a general strike of the dressmakers in the city of Philadelphia and empower the incoming G. E. B. to carry on the organization campaign now under way and to call such strike at the opportune time.

**VICE-PRESIDENT REISBERG:** The spirit in which the Committee presents this resolution to the convention speaks for itself. We of the Philadelphia delegation endorse the report of the Committee.

The motion was carried unanimously amid applause.

#### General Strike of Children's Dressmakers.

**VICE-PRESIDENT HOCHMAN:** Your Committee received Resolution No. 51 introduced by Local No. 91, New York, the resolves of which read:

**RESOLVED,** that the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. assembled in Cleveland, Ohio, heartily approves the action of the General Executive Board in deciding to call a strike in the Children's Dress Trade of Greater New York, and be it further

**RESOLVED,** that the incoming General Executive Board stand instructed by this Convention to give its full financial and moral support to Local Union No. 91, during the campaign and general strike of the Children's Dressmakers, and that such strike is to continue until a victorious conclusion.

In connection with this resolution, your Committee desires to inform the convention that the Children's Dress-

making Industry has of late developed in the city of New York to an industry of importance. There are today employed in this industry nearly ten thousand workers, over 90 per cent of whom are women. This industry draws its workers mostly from the American element and also partly from the Italian element. There is an amazingly large number of young girls employed, who are drawn in from the trade schools. The employers do not hesitate to take advantage of these workers, and in spite of a 48-hour State Law, the so-called "regular" hours per week in the non-union shops are more than 50 a week not including the unlimited additional hours of overtime. The wages of these workers are a mere pittance, ranging from \$7.00 to \$18.00 per week, this, in a very seasonal industry where the workers are employed at most eight months in the year.

Between the years 1916 and 1919, when the industry was much smaller, the Children's Dressmakers Union controlled more than 4,000 workers. The workers in the Union shops worked limited hours and received a minimum scale of \$25.00 per week.

The General Executive Board has paid a great deal of attention to this situation during the last few months. Under the direction of the General Executive Board, Local No. 91 carried on an organization drive. In the report of the G. E. B. we are informed that "the G. E. B., when it served notice, in the letter forwarded by President Schlesinger in August, upon all dress firms in the New York market of the firm determination of the Union "to introduce uniform conditions in all shops" included all firms in the children's dress and house dress trades in it. When the hour comes to enforce this demand, the Union will tackle in one great drive the non-union dress firms and the obstinate non-union element in the children's dress trade as well. The members of Local 91 are now looking eagerly toward that day, and when it comes they will take their places on the fighting lines ready to do their share.

With these comments, your Commit-

tee recommends the concurrence in this resolution.

Vice-President Ninfo seconded the motion.

**VICE - PRESIDENT GREENBERG:**

When we speak of sweatshops, I must, for a moment, look back to many years in the past. I want to say that while the sweatshops in the modern buildings where the manufacturers are located may be one thing, there are a great many contractors in the city of New York, in Brooklyn, in the Bronx, and in East New York, who have shops similar to those that existed twenty and twenty-five years ago.

The workers employed in the children's dress industry, as was stated by the Committee, are of an age between fifteen, sixteen, and eighteen years. They are forced to go into the factories because of economic conditions, and their only opportunity of earning a livelihood is by the income they are receiving for their labor. The same, so to speak, Americans who pride themselves on their American ideals are the very ones who are exploiting these young American girls to the fullest extent.

I am very happy, indeed, that the Committee on Resolutions has unanimously approved the action of the General Executive Board, and I express the feeling of the members of Local No. 91 that in the very near future, when they are called upon to once and for all do away with the conditions that have been forced upon them, they will do so with the greatest joy.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** I am not very familiar with the situation in the children's dress industry as I am with the dress situation. I am speaking of ladies' dresses, and misses' dresses. I would like to have this understanding with this convention and with Local No. 91, so there may be no misunderstanding afterward: this resolution and this partial report of the General Executive Board will be carried out if the General Executive Board, in its judgment, finds it to the interest of the whole organization, the International as well as Local

No. 91, to do so. I don't want to make any further comments. I simply want to be understood.

Delegate Leon Hattab asked whether this was not in any case the usual procedure with resolutions, and President Schlesinger replied that while the procedure was quite usual, the recommendations of the Committee reads slightly different from other recommendations that the Committee had acted upon and that is why he made that comment.

The motion to adopt the resolution was put to a vote and carried under applause.

**Address of James Maurer**

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** Every one here has heard the name of James Maurer and you all ought to know him. He was the candidate for Vice-President of the United States on the Socialist ticket in the last presidential campaign. He was for many years president of the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor. I believe he is a member of the Plumbers' Union. He was for many years a representative in the State Legislature of Pennsylvania, elected on the Socialist Party ticket. He is now holding a city office, elected by the people of Reading, Pennsylvania, on the Socialist ticket.

The delegates arose and applauded.

**JAMES MAURER:** We are constantly being told how prosperous this nation is. Never before in the history of the world has there been a period when a nation has been as prosperous as we have been in the United States, so we are told. Well, taking the country as a whole, that is true enough. Twenty-eight years ago the actual product, labor product, natural resources of the entire country was only thirteen billion dollars. In 1928, it was ninety billion dollars, an increase of over six hundred per cent, and in that period the population has not increased 50 per cent. That we are producing great mountains of wealth, no one can dispute, but while we are so rich as a nation, those who create the wealth are just about as poor as they



ever were, and the future is more uncertain than it ever was.

There is labor-displacing machinery all around us. Don't understand me that I am against inventions. I welcome them, but when I see machines coming in and scrapping the workers, I wonder how soon we will arrive at the point where we will say, "this must stop." When I see an occupation that formerly required a hundred men to do a job, and now a machine can do it with eight or nine men or women, and do more work than the hundred formerly did, when I see 90 per cent of the workers being scrapped, and the speeding up taking place in industry, I wonder where this is all leading to.

What are we doing about it? Well, for a long time we have been fighting each other. Take your trade, the great changes taking place in styles, throwing out of work a great many people. What are they doing with those they throw out? Do they give them work? No, they look for a place to do it still cheaper. They are looking for sweat-shops where they can exploit the mothers, and the women, and the children.

This nation is richer than any half dozen nations on earth, and yet speeding up is demanded more and more. Labor-displacing machinery is demanded more and more, and in your trade the sweat-shop is coming back to where it was not so many years ago. Even right here in Cleveland you have your sweat hells.

I heard that resolution about my own city in the state of Pennsylvania. I know that it is honeycombed with sweat shops, and why? Because they can do it a few cents cheaper with children and half-starved women than they can with legitimate employees.

When you talk to the fairly well employed groups of this struggle of the great mass, and there are more than four million unemployed, begging for the right to work—they don't understand it because they have a job. The Americans have been kidding themselves so long they are commencing to believe their own lies. The average American who has a job, thinks he is a capitalist, and

there is a reason for that: our institutions of learning have been teaching us Americans that we are better than any other people on earth; that we have it within us all to be President of the United States or millionaires. The recent panic in Wall Street shows how many suckers fell for that kind of dope.

The store clerk who has a job at \$35 a week think they own the stores. He comes home at night and puts on his smoking jacket and tells his good little wife: "I told the old man today in the store where to head it at, and he knows I'm right. If I quit, the store will go on the bust," and the poor little thing believes him, and the saddest part of it is, he believes it himself.

That is the psychology we get everywhere, in the press and the pulpit, and in our so-called institutions of learning. I tried for years to develop workers' study classes, to educate the workers to the true struggle, teach them the truths as they are.

Just why laboring men should be afraid of the solidarity of the working class on the political field as well as on the industrial field, I can't understand. I have been in the industrial fight almost fifty years. And it will be about thirty-two years since I became active in independent labor politics, when I joined the Socialist Labor Party. I haven't any regret for having been a member in the early days of the Knights of Labor.

Have I anything to regret for having been affiliated with this labor movement? Absolutely no!

When I joined the labor movement, about fifty years ago, I could neither read nor write. I became a newsboy at the age of six and a factory worker at the age of nine. School rooms were strange places to me, spooky places. I was in school twelve months of my life. The only thing I can remember is the hammerings I got. The labor movement is responsible for what little real education I acquired, and the Socialist movement is responsible for putting my feet on rock instead of sand. Everything I have in the world, all the pleasures I

have gotten out of life, I owe to those two wonderful movements.

You may say, 'well, now Mhurer, let's see about that. We had better get the best we can get. The trouble with you Socialists is that you can't win. Therefore let's vote for the next best thing.' That is what you have been doing, and what do you get? Injunctions! Good God! Take your solid South. Look at conditions down there. Right here in Ohio they are sending men to the penitentiary for twenty years for handing out circulars criticizing public officials.

I have been in politics, working class politics for many years. I served three terms in the Pennsylvania assembly; only one man on my side and 209 representatives, fifty senators, and the governor on the other side.

I was a member of the Socialist Party with all the Socialists throughout the state behind me, and with that power on the outside and with one man on the inside I got more for the working class in the three terms I served than the others had gotten for fifty years before I went in there.

If the politicians didn't see the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor behind me, and the Socialist movement behind me, they would kick me out and send me about my business. But they didn't dare kick me because they would have been kicking the entire Labor and Socialist movement of Pennsylvania. What a pity I couldn't have the boys back of me in the labor movement send more men and women of their own ranks down there. But no. They have been told and they believe that the way to do it is to vote the old line ticket. Reward your friends and punish your enemies, and generally the friends that came in were worse than the enemies that went out. That is the trouble.

I am now a member of the city government of Reading. I want to tell you what you can do with your ballots. For two years we have held the power of government. We have a Socialist trade union man, Mayor Stump, who has been president of the central body for twelve years; another is president of the Mu-

sicians' Union; they and myself were elected commissioners of Reading; three out of five. We did so well that in the last November election our entire ticket was brought in. Now in January we will have five out of five.

Brothers and sisters, I just want to show you that when you have the power in your hands you can do something but when it is in the other fellow's hand you are helpless.

I want to thank you in behalf of the Socialist Party—the General Executive Committee of the Socialist Party, of which I am a member and in behalf of my running-mate, Norman Thomas, who hoped to be here, but could not come. I want to tell you boys to keep up the good work, build up this organization with both arms. You are a wonderful group.

I predict for your splendid organization that you are going to be more powerful, and of more worth to the rank and file, to yourselves, to the country, to the world than you have ever been. (Prolonged applause.)

Upon motion of Delegate Pankin it was unanimously decided that the thanks of the convention be extended to Brother Maurer for his address and that it be spread upon the minutes of the proceedings.

#### Address of Abraham Cahan

The assembly arose and applauded enthusiastically as Abraham Cahan, editor of the Jewish Daily Forward, was presented to the convention.

**ABRAHAM CAHAN:** I want to congratulate you upon this wonderful convention. It is really a source of tremendous joy to me to see your trade in its present shape. Just when I was ready to go to Europe five or six months ago, your great strike was declared. Schlesinger and Dubinsky and I were riding around in a car and observing the mass of workers.

There was the question in the mind of everybody, "Will they respond?" The Communists were hoping they wouldn't respond. Strikes are their specialty because strikes are connected with tremen-

dous sums, sometimes three and a half millions. They wanted it; they needed it. Had they not called a strike when you were opposed to it and everybody begged for them not to strike? They wanted to make a mess of the entire trade in order to get hold of it. They like to do a lot of fishing in muddy waters, and they wanted to muddy up the waters so they could fish in them. You had recovered from the havoc they had played in your trade, your industry and organization, and the time was ripe for action and everybody blessed your strike. Your strike was a most spontaneous phenomenon, a great success. I left for Europe that same evening and we were all interested to know how it was getting on. I wanted to express my thanks to Schlesinger for having sent me a special cable in Berlin to let me know of your wonderful victory.

The situation that existed when you were under the domination of the Communists was something like the state of a man who suffers from cancer. I say cancer because a lot of people were under the impression that your disease was incurable. Many were in despair. What they did to your organization, to many of the members personally and to the organization as a whole, is a story that has not yet been told. A book should be written about it. It should be perpetuated. People ought to know what these people did to your Union and to the rank and file as well as to the leaders of your Union.

Many people thought your Union was suffering from a disease that could be diagnosed as incurable, but somehow or other it was cured. I have known of two or three cases where cancer has been cured and yours is one of those cases.

It took time for you to recover. When a man is sick in bed suffering from a very serious illness, even after he recovers he is still weak and it takes time for him to recuperate. That is exactly what happened to you. Now when I hear and see the present condition of your Union I feel that the disease is absolutely a thing of the past. It belongs to the history of the Union and to the

most tragic events of the most shocking chapter in the history of the cloak industry. You are through with it and you are devoting yourselves, not to politics, but to conditions of trade and to the worker.

I have been with you, friends and comrades, ever since the very day you were born as a Union. I was not a founder of the Union literally, but I was one of the founders. There was a man, Gretch, whose name I sometimes mention to you because I think it ought to be inscribed as the real founder of this organization. He was a Russian Socialist. He came from Odessa, the younger of two brothers, and he became intensely interested in your particular trade before it was organized. He called upon me to make a speech. I made the first speech to your Union.

I remember the Sunday morning when they were all ready to go to the meeting. They sent a man to invite me. I didn't know the workings behind the scenes. I think there are two or three of the old members here. Ex-President Rosenberg was one of them. But Grétch was the most active spirit in the whole thing. That was a great many years ago and the organization went through all sorts of periods, all sorts of vicissitudes. The cloakmakers of the day had a peculiar habit. Sometimes your Union would fall to pieces just after a great victory. Usually among Americans or Germans or Englishmen—I wouldn't vouch for the Frenchmen—when a Union has a strike and wins a great victory, it intensifies the devotion of the men to the Union and strengthens the ties between man and man, between member and member; but with us it was different, particularly in the cloak trade.

The meetings were held at 125 Rivington Street and every time there was a strike and the strike was won the manufacturers would come to settle. They would settle on any terms because they knew that after the strike was over the people would stop going to meetings and stop paying dues and a new union would have to be built. I would say to your leader, "how soon will you call on me again to make a speech?" We used to



deliver speeches to them, try to make them understand the importance of adhering to the organization, of showing real devotion. They would understand as long as the speeches lasted. They lacked discipline of mind; they lacked the organization habit.

We had come from lands, cities and towns where the phrase, Free Speech was unknown, or meant going to the gallows. We had no Unions or platforms, and the people didn't know what it was all about. We used to hold them together by sheer force of enthusiasm, and over and over again we would have to start the Union anew. In the course of time, from year to year, we went on trying to train them in the right direction. And now we have our present organization as the result. But we mustn't fail to give credit to the newcomers who joined our ranks later on. Labor and revolutionary organizations later had been started in Russia and the people had been taught Socialism and all those idealistic principles before they arrived in this country, and our burden was easier to bear. In the course of time you built up an organization made up of men who realized the value of trade unionism and of devotion to your cause and to your organization.

Before your strike in 1910 your Union was not a continuous sort of an affair. Years would go by with the Union represented in the form of a few books and a couple of secretaries, but no membership, no rank and file. There was a head without a body, and sometimes there was simply a secretary's book, without any members. Years and years would go by that way, but in the course of time it all consolidated into the proper kind of form, and when that great strike broke out you represented a real organization.

I used to say, and everybody said, you have an excellent Union, but let us wait five years, and if you last five years I'll congratulate you. Since your great strike your Union has been a continuous performance and you have never gone down.

At one time it was the habit, and the

Communists still teach it, to attack and vilify every union official. It was absolutely impossible to develop the spirit of discipline and self-respect among our workers.

I once asked a man, "can you take that leader's place? You should be thankful for having a leader. Without a leader you would have no Union and without a Union you would have a sweatshop." And he said, "You are right, Mr. Cahen; I was excited." One of the basic principles is to teach the members to respect their leaders.

And now I see Schlesinger is your leader. I have known him for many years. I was one of the first men in the United States to pick him out as one of the ablest in our ranks. I was the one to introduce him to the Forward Association and to point to him as one of the most energetic members of the trade union movement the world over. He took over the position of business manager of our paper and he introduced the spirit of energetic action there, a spirit we hadn't known before. He is one of the most able men any Union ever had. We are all proud of him and I know you are proud of him.

I am overjoyed at the fact that real harmony and unity exists in your Union today. I stood before you two years ago under different circumstances. There was a division of opinion on certain matters. I had the courage to tell you what I thought of the situation and I will tell you what I think of it now. I see that both elements are united. At that time some people sat in their chairs and glowered at me. They were not in a good humor toward each other. The only fellow that was good enough to speak to me was Dubinsky.

But today we all are friends. I see both elements here. I am glad to see that you are united and that the members stand shoulder to shoulder as one body. I congratulate you from the very bottom of my heart. (Applause.)

I was told this morning of the wonderful message you sent to your former president, our friend, Morris Sigman. (Applause.)



I wish to congratulate you upon the fascinating spirit that was manifested by that act of yours. I understand that my Comrade Schlesinger was the one to shape it, or to formulate it.

What does it mean? It means that not only have you discipline enough to respect those whom you recently elected and who are your leaders now, but that you also have respect for those who were your leaders yesterday. Let Comrade Schlesinger know, and let all of the other officers who are here know, that when some one else takes their place, they shall not be forgotten, they shall not be despised, but respected and revered.

You remember the proclamation Sigman issued on a certain Sunday morning on the front page of the Forward. In it he declared the cloakmakers free from the Communists. He was ready to do it.

Now your message to him simply is the climax of a very beautiful story of comradesly feeling and devotion, and of tremendous importance to our Jewish movement.

I want to say a word or two about the Labor Movement in general. Comrade Maurer dwelled upon the situation in America, more or less confining himself to America. I have spent a great deal of time in Germany and also in England recently. One of the things I was interested in was a study of the Labor movement there. I found in Germany a movement that took my breath away. It always was wonderful, although I remember the time when the trade union movement in Germany was very weak, when immigrants by the hundreds of thousands came to this country because German industry was not highly developed and they had to seek employment in some other country. I happened to visit Germany in 1912, and I found the industry and the trade movement wonderfully well developed. They stopped coming to us. Germany needed every hand it could get at home.

Now I find the Socialist movement in Germany has a paying membership in good standing, of very close to one mil-

lion! Just imagine it! Ninety-seven hundred thousand men who pay dues to the Socialist party, and the Socialist party is simply the political phase of the trade union movement—which was also under Communist control for a long time.

The metal workers of Germany, a trade that has millions of workers, were entirely in the hands of the Communists at one time. Now they have ousted the Communists completely from the management of the union, and it is entirely in the hands of sober-minded, devoted, honest Socialists. The movement is spreading and growing tremendously.

You will find that we have a tremendous movement in France. The Socialist movement has about one hundred and ten members in parliament. But the Frenchman is excitable, and he hates to pay dues. The members don't pay dues, and you never can rely on them to the extent that you can rely on the members in Germany.

In England the condition is different altogether. In England the government is a Socialist government—Labor Party government. The trade unions are the government of the country. In Germany the Prime Minister and several other important ministers are Socialists. In France they have a very large number of deputies, and what is more, the Socialist party exercises great control over political affairs and government.

When you come to the United States, we seem to amount to nothing. The Socialists of Europe make fun of us. They say, "you are a wonderful lot. You can build skyscrapers, automobiles, and talkies, and whatnot, you have all the money in the world, but you haven't a single member representing the Labor class in your Congress." It is true.

When I came back to New York, I found that our Comrade Thomas was running for Mayor. First of all, he put up a tremendous fight, and then he polled a tremendous vote, the largest Socialist vote ever polled in this country, and the most important thing is that it was an American vote. It was the first great American victory. And si-

multaneous with that we have Reading, a town of one hundred twenty thousand, all dominated by these people, clear-cut Socialists and that for the second time. And how did they win this present victory? They did it in a purely Yankee way. Somebody advised them to talk class consciousness and Maurer said to me: "That story has gray hair on it. Instead of that we'll prove to them what we have done." They haven't the support of a single newspaper there. They have nothing but their own honest devotion and efficiency to show and they won out. It tends to show that we can have the American people on our side if we only know how to go about it. We ought to have a campaign like ours in New York every year and we ought to have as much of the American campaign as possible.

The Socialist movement used to be a foreign movement. At first it was purely a German movement; then it was a Jewish movement—well Jewish is my native tongue and my mother spoke very good Jewish and some people have said that my Jewish is not so very bad either, but what is the use.

Your children are American-born, most of them anyway, and we must bear in mind that this is the kind of people

to whom we must appeal, and it is they, as members of the Socialist party, and of unions like yours, who will create a movement similar to the great movement in Germany and in England.

I feel exactly the way I felt forty-seven years ago, but my brain thinks a little differently. There are lots of things I didn't know at that time. I am beginning to understand things; even now I am learning something every day. I appeal to you to join our party—boys, join the Socialist party! And join it as American citizens.

I congratulate you and thank you from the bottom of my heart.

The assembly arose and responded with tremendous applause.

Vice-President Antonini's motion that Mr. Cahan's address be recorded in the minutes and that the Convention express its thanks to him was carried. Delegate Antonini suggested to Mr. Cahan that he include the dressmakers in his references to the union and Mr. Cahan assured him that when the dressmakers go out on strike he will be a full fledged dressmaker.

The Convention adjourned at 12:30 p. m. to 2:30 p. m.

## Fourth Day—Thursday Afternoon Session

Cleveland, Ohio, December 5, 1929

The Convention was called to order at 2:30 by President Schlesinger.

Berel Locker, representative of the World Organization of the Poale Zionists, also representing the "Histadruth," the Federation of Labor of Palestine, addressed the Convention in Yiddish. He said in substance:

Your organization was the first to step into the front ranks of the general struggle of the constructive forces against the disruptive forces that sought the breakdown of the Labor Movement these past ten years. The fact that you have withstood these attacks, the fact that your Convention stands united, the

fact that your last strike of cloakmakers in New York was a victorious one, is a good indication that we have completely eliminated this disease from the Labor Movement of the world. The day the news of victory reached us in Europe, was a day of rejoicing.

I know that a great number of you are interested in the work of the Poale Zion and the Histadruth. The Jewish workers of Palestine did not permit themselves to become alarmed over the recent occurrences. The Jewish workers of Palestine have no desire to fight with revolvers, but rather seek to lay the foundation for new factories, workshops and above all, they seek to live

in peace with the Arab people. They are imbued with a feeling of solidarity towards the Arab workers, whom they have begun to organize. In the recent massacres, the great masses of the Arab people did not take part. On the contrary, the Arab workers whom the Histadruth organized, were friendly and came to the assistance of our people.

It is along these lines that we wish to continue. There are in Palestine great stretches of land still to be occupied. There is room for new settlers. We are determined to work hand in hand with the Arabs. I deem it my duty to tell you that the "Forward," the Jewish workers in America and especially our ever-youthful friend and comrade Caban, have inspired us in our work. We are bound to win if we stand united and work together for our common cause.

President Schlesinger appointed the following committee to escort Matthew Woll and Raymond V. Ingersoll to the Convention:

Vice President Julius Hochman.  
S. Perlmutter, Local No. 10.  
B. Moser, Local No. 2.  
M. Rief, Local No. 35.  
Tillie Colkins, Cleveland.

Dr. B. Hoffman (Zivlon), editor of the "Gerechtigkeit," and prominent Jewish writer, addressed the Convention very briefly in Yiddish:

"Every minute spent at this Convention," he said, "costs you \$25, and I can assure you that such expensive time can be consumed in a much more enjoyable fashion than listening to a talk.

"The question in my mind is—what will you do with the time if I should not consume it? I know very well what conventions are. President Schlesinger is a newspaper man and he will understand me when I speak of a filler-in. I know there are certain speakers who are called upon to fill in. Well all right, I'm ready to fill in. (Laughter.)

"I believe that a trade union convention and trade unions in general should be practical. Practicability is one of the

laws of trade unionism. The question is merely to determine what is practicable and what is not. That is the difficult thing. It is my opinion that idealism in the Labor Movement is a very practical thing, one of the things that bring more results. My wish to you is that you shall be practical enough to be idealistic. And that is, it seems to me, all that I can say to you."

#### Samuel Levine Addresses Convention

Samuel Levine, (Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America).

I want to congratulate you on your achievements, on the success that you have won during the last year or so. I am familiar with what your organization had to live through. I am familiar with the attempts that were made to reduce your organization to practically nothing. Fortunately you have recuperated and the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union is back where it belongs.

The men and women in industry have so much at stake that they must be on the watch at all times to guard against the common enemy, but when our friends begin to be too friendly we have to be very much more on the watch, because the inside enemy is more dangerous than the outside enemy.

During the last year you have performed a marvelous feat and you have placed your organization on the road to complete recovery.

We have always enjoyed the splendid relationship that each of the organizations of the needle trades has borne for the others and we must at all times stand by one another. We must always be an example to the Labor Movement. We must remember that we are immigrants, and as such we must convince the American workers that we understand the American standard of living and that we know how to fight for it.

You have eliminated the sores with which the Labor Movement has been afflicted, and I hope that the experience we have had will teach us not to submit to those who are in a great hurry

to "save" the Labor Movement or to make it different than it is.

I want to congratulate your officers for the great work they have done during the past two or three years, especially, and I hope that your growth will be as splendid in the future as it has been in the past. I hope that you will serve as a model for the Labor Movement. My organization will be willing to take lessons from you and we shall try to be as good as you are. (Applause.)

Vice-President Ninfo, who had assumed the chair, introduced Judge Jacob Panken of New York, and the members arose and cheered.

#### Address of Judge Panken

I listened with a great deal of interest to the spokesman of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America. I hope that some day the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America will become an integral part of the American Labor Movement.

The Amalgamated and the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union have, during the years of their functioning in the labor field, made definite imprints not only upon the Labor Movement, but upon American conditions in general. We talk in America of free Labor, but there are various interpretations of what is meant by free Labor. For many generations in the South free Labor meant Labor to be freely exploited, and to be freely oppressed by the employing classes. In the North we have a different concept of what constitutes "free Labor." To us "free Labor" means Labor free to live, Labor free to organize, Labor free to fight for the right to live as decent human beings and citizens of our nation.

As you meet this afternoon in Cleveland, a meeting is taking place in the city of Washington, called by President Hoover for the purpose of stimulating industry in our country. I am glad that engineering science is being brought to bear upon the industrial conditions of the nation.

It may be well to stimulate industry,

it may be well to devise ways and means of extending enterprise, but unless the consumers of this nation are given the means to consume what is created, the problem of unemployment, the problem of poverty, the problem of insecurity is not going to be solved. So I say to the gentlemen who have gathered this afternoon in Washington for the purpose of planning new enterprises and how to keep alive active industry, that the first consideration which ought to be on the agenda is what portion of production will go to American Labor in order to enable it to consume what it produces and what it creates.

One of the most serious problems that confronts American Labor today, in my judgment, is the enhanced productivity of the American industry. With the introduction of labor-saving devices, with the introduction of every new machine, you are reducing the number of people required in industry. We are confronted today with an unemployment problem. Nobody knows it as well as the men and women employed in the needle industry. You have your seasons of feverish activity for a period of six or eight weeks, and your periods of slack ranging over three or four months.

Normally, we are told that in the United States there are upwards of a million unemployed, but that number is exceeded by millions in times of economic disturbances. There is no reason that in a well organized society, in a nation that can rationalize, that can think efficiently, that unemployment should be the curse visited upon the men that produce and create the wealth of the nation.

There was a time when a man's gray hair did not exclude him from the privilege of earning his bread in the sweat of his brow. But with machine production displacing human production, and with the speed of the human body being reduced by the unrolling of years, the older person is consigned to the scrap heap as if he had no right to live in our community. We find ourselves in condition today that men of forty and forty-five, who by some turn of fortune lose their jobs, must become



charges upon the public or upon their families. Something should be done by your organization. Something should be done in the United States similar to what has been done by every civilized industrial nation the world over. The time has come in the United States when we should no longer discuss the feasibility or the possibility of old age insurance, but we should attack it as a problem and solve it and provide old age pensions for the old workers in industry in this nation.

It was my good fortune in the spring of this year to visit Great Britain during the period in which they were carrying on their campaign for the election of the Labor Government. It was my privilege to speak at various Labor meetings throughout the land there. I want to say to you that I felt that we in America were about one hundred years behind the British Labor Movement. I wish I could picture for you these Labor men and women rising in these meetings to ask the candidate his views with relation to India, his views towards recognizing the Soviet State of Russia, his views with regard to creating housing facilities, and other important problems of State. These people not only had an understanding of the conditions prevalent in their own country, but were conversant about international conditions as it might affect them, the nations, and the entire Labor Movement.

I wish I could take you with me on an election day in London to see the hundreds of thousands of workmen and workwomen of Great Britain rising in enthusiasm and with a fervent will to change Great Britain so that it may become the heaven for the British laboring people.

Yet they realize in Great Britain that as long as the American Labor Movement is not going to make an effort to organize a Labor Party and try to control the government of the United States in the interest of American Labor, their efforts are going to be to some extent nullified. So my last word to you this afternoon is this: Let us resolve not to be satisfied with what we have accomplished. Let our motto be: More and

more and more for the American laboring people; more and more and more for America; and a better world for the United States. British Labor has redeemed its promise to mankind. It is abolishing war. Onward Comrades, in that direction!

Delegate Perlmutter made the motion, which was unanimously carried, that the thanks of the Convention be extended to Judge Panken and his address be spread upon the minutes of the proceedings of the Convention.

#### Raymond V. Ingersoll Speaks to Convention

Vice-President Ninfo introduced Raymond V. Ingersoll, Impartial Chairman of New York, and the audience arose and applauded.

MR. INGERSOLL: I have known your Union in periods of struggle and in periods of peace; in times of weakness and in times of strength. It is in the times of strength that my own office is the busiest and I am very glad that we are now in a period of strength. I wish to say that it is very gratifying to me that your Union at the present time is justifying the meaning of its own name, for you cannot have very much of a union unless the membership is truly united.

I have been thinking this afternoon of some of the changes which have taken place in the point of view of Capital and in the point of view of Labor. I remember a strike some forty years ago in a small town in Western New York in which there was only one young person who was in sympathy with the workers in that struggle. Now the increase of wages which the workers were demanding would have brought an increase of prosperity to all the shopkeepers of the town, but so far as I know all of them were lined up on the other side. At that time the labor union theory that a high level of wages brings general prosperity to a community had not penetrated very much outside of union circles.

I think that during the past decade or two there has been a considerable

change in this respect. It is still true that an individual employer may not be so very enthusiastic about a particular increase of wages in his own shop or in his own industry, but enlightened business leaders pretty generally have come to realize that if a high wage level becomes sufficiently general it means an increase of purchasing power and an expansion of markets in whose benefits they will all share.

Now in this respect, Capital, to an extent, has taken in a page from the book of Labor. I think Labor has also taken a page from the book of Capital. The intelligent leaders of Labor and the intelligent workers have come to realize that a good level of production is good for the business in which they are concerned, good for bringing more business into the shop, and that if it prevails generally throughout the nation, it is good for the great body of consumers of which they are a part.

Both the Unions and the various associations of employers have increased greatly in numbers and in strength and the standards to which all have agreed are being very much more generally enforced. The employers have learned that they are actually worse off with a weak Union than with a strong Union. In the suit and cloak industry in New York we are searching out those dark spots through persistent and widespread investigations. We find by comparison with other years that there has been a very great and substantial progress, but we cannot regard this as a time when standards should be let down. The purpose of your organization is to bring lasting improvements into the lives of thousands of your members and of their families, and you will continue to have my very sincere sympathy in your efforts. (Applause).

Delegate Nagler made the motion which was unanimously carried, that the thanks of the Convention be extended to Mr. Ingersoll for his address and that it be spread upon the minutes of the Convention.

#### Address of Matthew Woll

Matthew Woll, President of the Union Labor Life Insurance Company and Vice-President of the American Federation of Labor, was then presented.

**MATTHEW WOLL:** I take pleasure in coming to you today to evaluate factors that are at play making either for advancement or retrogression of labor or of the organizations of which they are an integral part.

Insofar as American labor is concerned, I have yet to realize a change of attitude on the part of American labor toward capital, for American labor has always realized the necessity of reserve wealth in order to carry on renewed production, diversified production that makes for industrial progress. There has, however, been a great change on the part of employers or capital toward labor. Until recent years the industrial order of our time has followed the economic school that developed when England changed from the condition of serfdom into a state of industrialism.

American labor has always opposed Adam Smith's economic theory, while England has adhered to it. American labor has accepted the theory that there is room for capital and labor, for employer and employee.

As for the political aspect, I am not one to prophecy what may take place in our own land, and I shall not engage in speculations either. I merely wish to present briefly the point of view of organized labor as expressed by the American Federation of Labor on the question of political action. Let us realize that here in America we have a government entirely different from that which prevails in any other part of the globe. The basic principle upon which this nation is founded is that of the sovereign power in the individual and not in the state. Every European or advanced democracy rests upon the theory that the reserved power lies in the state and not in the individual.

In addition to that, we are still in a state of society where the majority of states in the Union are agricultural and

not industrial states. And even though we might succeed in organizing the industrial workers into a distinct political party, it would yet not rest with the wage earners of the land to determine and dominate the political destiny of our nation.

Then again, within our land we have men of all languages, men of all customs, men of all traditions, such as we find in no other nation of the world. But in England they have one language, one custom, one tradition. So when you speak of the nation and of the international labor movement, bear in mind that there is no comparison to be made as to the immediate future insofar as political action is concerned.

Who knows what this labor movement in England will accomplish? I feel confident that the labor government, if it accomplishes nothing more in England than to promote peace and bring the nations of the world into closer compact, it will have justified its existence.

The American labor movement is reluctant to venture into a field of activity pregnant with so many dangers and difficulties and to have its mind and its thought and its power diverted from the economic and industrial activities where we know American labor has accomplished more than any other labor movement throughout the world.

However, that doesn't indicate that we are not interested in matters of legislation, for, indeed, the records of the American Federation of Labor are replete with legislative proposals originated, advanced, and supported in the interest of the great wage earning class, whether organized or unorganized. Likewise is its record clear on opposition to legislation advanced by those who have no concern or interest in the protection, advancement, or improvement of the lot of conditions of life and work of the wage earning class.

And in that connection may I just simply refer to how many times the American Federation of Labor has been misrepresented by those who ought to know better, and how some of its officials have been placed in erroneous points of view

in the public light by those who would seek to criticize. If they would but analyze the record, they would find just the contrary to exist.

In reading some of our advanced papers, particularly within the last two years, you will have noted that Matt Woll was opposed to pension legislation, and that he was influenced by another organization in his opposition to legislation of that kind and character. A greater untruth could not have been uttered. While I have been prompted now and then to try to correct that opinion, I felt that when those who ought to know better continued to make those assertions there was no chance for correcting this propaganda of falsehood.

Fortunately, however, at the last convention of the American Federation of Labor, the opportunity of clearly defining, not alone the position of the American Federation of Labor, but of my own convictions on that subject, was presented, and for your information and clear understanding, may I say that the American Federation of Labor as well as I individually, have not waited until the Toronto convention a few months ago to declare in favor of pension legislation, but that the American Federation of Labor for the past six or eight years—yes during the entire career of President Gompers—recorded itself in favor of pension legislation in the several States and in the national government itself.

But I want to get off these subjects and dwell briefly upon the affairs of your organization, for I am somewhat conversant with the strife through which your organization has passed. It was my good fortune to be at your convention something like a year and a half ago in Boston, during the time that the Communists did all that they could to dismember your organization.

I am overjoyed in the knowledge that with the contribution made in connection with that of President Green and others, and in co-operation with your International and local union officers, we have rid the ranks of your organization, of the furriers, and of others, of such as have plotted the destruction of your



splendid Union. And so, too, when the time came for the reorganization of your industry—for after all it is not alone a question of the reorganization of your power as wage earners but it is also a question of reorganization of the industry itself upon which your opportunities for life and living depend—and when that movement was inaugurated, how glad I was to be of whatever help I might be to your organization. And at this moment may I pay tribute in words beyond my expression, words beyond my vocabulary, to the great service rendered by your President, Ben Schlesinger.

If labor is to progress and to advance, it cannot destroy industry and hope to improve its condition. It is only by safeguarding, protecting, and advancing that industry, and so I hear with joy this new idea, this new activity entered into by your international organization, and I find therein a foundation being laid that will mean for it a tower of strength and future prosperity.

In addition to words of praise for the service performed almost beyond conception by your International President, I must likewise pay tribute to your local union officers in New York City, too numerous for me to mention, Dubinsky, Nagler, and all of them, all striving day and night for the one purpose: The protection of your Union, the advancement of industry, and the progress of the men and women engaged in that industry.

Now you are about to venture into another step in the reorganization of the industry and in the further strengthening of your International and respective local unions. While I am not authorized to speak in the name of the American Federation of Labor at this moment, yet being within its councils, and knowing what is transpiring, knowing the attitude of mind of those charged with the administrative conscience of the American Federation of Labor, rest assured that the American Federation of Labor will support your movement one hundred per cent, and will not be lacking in any degree or by any sufficiency in its support and in its activities in this next big step to be undertaken by your organiza-

which, to my mind, by reason of the successes already achieved, is bound to succeed even before the movement is inaugurated. And if your convention did nothing more than to meet and discuss and to prepare plans for this coming and final test of power, of strength and vision, then indeed would this conclave of labor be fully justified.

I wish that your President were not here at this moment so that I might fully express that which is within my heart and which the soul yearns for expression. You men and women of labor sitting here in convention, facing the man who has undertaken this work, whom you know as well as I—and this is not for his ears—(perhaps this is the last undertaking that you will take under his leadership) what are you going to do, and what are you going to urge your followers to do in this movement? Surely there can be but one answer, and that is that the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union members will follow him 100 per cent, will respond to the call both within as well as without the organization, and follow the champion of this movement, of your cause, of the labor movement and march onward to victory, not for a day but for all time to come.

I want to close my remarks by referring briefly to the organization recently created out of discussions and considerations of the American Federation of Labor—The Union Labor Life Insurance Company, for therein I can realize another manifestation of the power of organized labor.

Do not the opponents to trade unions use their power in every way and at every opportunity as a means of weakening the workers' power of organization?

Why build up great insurance institutions? Why not organize and control them to our own advantage, advance the trade union movement and, at the same time, give that protection that every family should have at a cost price rather than on a profit-making venture? It is those thoughts, those ideas germinating slowly but surely within the council of the American Federation of Labor that



have made possible the creation of the Union Labor Life Insurance Company, your company, labor's company, owned by over sixty national and international unions.

And if I may be pardoned for bringing in just a little personal reference, my training, my experience in this labor movement, they have not come by the reading of books, nor from the school room. I am not a product of America. I am foreign-born, having come to this country at eleven years of age, without knowledge of the English language, going into a workshop at fifteen years of age with but a grammar school education.

My father was an iron molder, a member of the iron molders' union, and it is to that organization that I owe my opportunity to serve in the cause of labor, and that is why I feel so keenly on this subject of trade unionism.

Let us go on in the movement, determined upon unity of action, unity of thought and concentration of efforts, for the improvement of the economic and industrial conditions of the wage earner. I thank you.

The members arose and applauded.

Delegate Jacobson's motion to extend the thanks of the Convention to Brother Matthew Woll was enthusiastically carried.

#### Report on Cleveland Situation

Vice-President Julius Hochman continued the report of the Committee on Resolutions.

The Committee on Resolutions begs to submit to you a report on Resolution No. 92, introduced by the Cleveland delegation on behalf of the Cloak and Dressmakers of Cleveland.

This resolution deals with the negotiations now pending between the Union and the Association and asks this convention for its endorsement of a general strike in the event negotiations for a peaceful settlement and an adjustment of the demands of the Union do not materialize.

Resolves of Resolution No. 92 read:

RESOLVED, that this 20th Biennial Convention endorse the decision of the General Executive Board to call such a general strike of the cloak and dress industries, in the event the just demands of the Union for the 40 hour week and the abolition of sweatshops are denied; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the incoming General Executive Board be instructed and authorized to provide the necessary moral and financial assistance in this coming campaign.

Cleveland is one of the important centers of the ladies' garment industry in the United States. Cleveland is the cradle of trade unionism among the needle workers. Only recently Cleveland celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of two of its local unions. There are very few local unions in our International that can point to an existence of thirty years. During this period the Cleveland unions have experienced many hard and bitter struggles in an attempt to get recognition from the employers and to introduce union standards and conditions in the shops where the cloak and dressmakers are employed. Some of the most prominent public men in the country have from time to time interceded in an effort to adjust the differences between the Union and the employers amicably. Notable among them are I. M. Hopkins of Dartmouth College; Major Rosenson, John R. McLane, Judge Julian W. Mack, Morris L. Cooke, Newton D. Baker, Dr. Jacob H. Hollander, the present impartial chairman.

The union in Cleveland has established itself as a factor in the local market in the year 1918. It was the general strike of that year that finally won recognition from the employers and the first real collective agreement.

During the last few years new developments that have sprung up in the industry made it imperative for the Cleveland union to carry on an organization campaign and to effect a thorough organization of the cloak and dress industry in this city.

Today there are a number of cloak shops and a still larger number of dress shops where hours are unlimited, and wages are low. These shops constitute not only a menace to the standards and conditions in the union shops but threa-

ten to drag down the ladies' garment industry of Cleveland to a shameful level.

In the report of the G. E. B. we find it expressed in unmistakable terms that the International is pledged to back Cleveland to the fullest extent and that the New York cloakmakers are ready to come to the assistance of their Cleveland fellow members with moral and material support.

The Cleveland union has now submitted a demand for the forty-hour work week which it is determined to establish. In addition to this, it also put forth a series of demands which are of vital importance for the well-being of the workers in the industry. The Cleveland workers have always been loyal and devoted members of the International. We desire to point out here that Cleveland is the only center of our International where the Communists never got a foothold.

Your Committee is sure that it expresses the sentiment of every delegate to this Convention when it says that our International is proud of our Cleveland organization and its able local leadership.

Your Committee, therefore, recommends that the International give all moral and financial assistance to the Cleveland union to help it in its present negotiations for a peaceful settlement of its grievances. In the event all efforts at an amicable settlement fail, the G.E.B. is hereby authorized and instructed to declare a general strike and give such a strike its moral and financial support to help achieve the just demands of the Union, to wipe out the sweatshops and to effect a thorough organization of the ladies' garment trades in the city of Cleveland.

**DELEGATE KATOVSKY:** I thought it would be a waste of time for me to speak regarding the general strike in Cleveland. However, I cannot resist the opportunity of informing the delegates that the Cleveland members of the Union are ready to carry on the battle, and demonstrate to the Cleveland manufacturers that the substandard shops must be eradicated from Cleveland.

On behalf of the Cleveland members, may I state at this time that we will always hold high the banner of solidarity, and under the guidance of our beloved President we will be able to march to the next victory.

Brother President, may I take this opportunity to thank the Committee on Resolutions for giving this encouragement to the Cleveland members. (Applause.)

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** I merely want to say one word before this matter is disposed of. The International officers will, of course, make every effort to do everything possible to have the matter in Cleveland adjusted peaceably. We are not looking for strikes. We do not believe that strikes are picnics. If, however, we fail to reach an understanding in a peaceful way, and if the manufacturers insist upon doing work in sweat shops, or if the manufacturers decline to recognize the rights of the workers and give them what is justly due them, we will call that strike and the workers will get all the support.

The report of the Committee on Resolutions was then unanimously carried.

#### Children of Workmen's Circle Speak

The Convention at this point enjoyed an unexpected treat. A number of children from the Workmen's Circle Schools of Cleveland came to the Convention and were escorted to the platform. Among them was the young son of Delegate Katovsky who turned out to be a most able speaker. His talk in Yiddish ran as follows:

Dear delegates and friends: I am proud that I have been chosen to greet you at your convention. I am a graduate of a public school in Cleveland and am now a High School student. I have learned much about the struggles you had to carry in order to improve the conditions of the thousands of workers in your organization. Your task is a difficult one. The employers seek in every way to discourage you. They do not want to concede your demands.

You, the leaders of the I. L. G. W. U.

will, with your courage and great devotion, carry on in a just cause.

The victory is assured. With ever greater courage and unity you are bound to reach your goal. In the name of the children of the Cleveland Workmen's Circle Schools I greet each of you heartily to your convention. I trust that your deliberations will be successful. We, the children who attend the Workmen's Circle Schools promise to help you when we grow up. (Applause.)

Accept the heartiest greetings from the American Jewish younger generation. May your hands be strengthened in your difficult, but holy task. (Ovation.)

A young girl, Feige Silver, spoke as follows, in Yiddish:

**FEIGE SILVER:** Chairman, delegates and guests: I was delegated to greet you in the name of the Workmen's Circle School No. 2. You, chairman and delegates from the entire country, have assembled here to deliberate on important questions of your Union in the interests of the workers and their families. We, children, are taught in our school that the people who toil and create all that is good and useful are the best people; that they should not create everything for others and have nothing for themselves, but that they should become the bosses of their work and of their lives.

The workers do everything for the world, therefore, the world should be theirs. Our school is still young, not quite nine months old. We have just begun to study and are preparing to understand the workers and their struggles.

Be greeted in the name of the children of our schools, in the name of our teachers and parents. We promise to join you in your efforts to build a more beautiful and better world, when we grow older. (Thunderous applause.)

Delegate Belson moved that two baskets of flowers be sent to the two schools in appreciation of the addresses made by these children. Delegate Kaplan moved that there be included in the

motion a recommendation that members send their children to the Workmen's Circle schools. The motion was carried.

#### Emil Schlesinger at the Convention

President Schlesinger's son, Emil, was noticed on the platform and there were cries of "Speech, speech!" from the audience.

Emil Schlesinger was presented by his father and responded as follows:

**MR. EMIL SCHLESINGER:** Mr. President, (laughter), Delegates of the Convention: I am very happy to be here and to see a convention of the laboring men enact their own laws for their own government. I have seen the board of aldermen in the city of New York; I have seen the state legislature in Albany, but I wanted to observe workers in the act of governing themselves. The manner in which your work is done has been a revelation to me.

I wanted to see your President in action (laughter), and it was that, too, that prompted me to attend this convention. I am very happy to confirm what I wrote in that telegram, namely, that the Supreme Court of New York State handed down a decision yesterday morning which, to my mind, wipes out the last vestige of Communism from the Cloak Makers Union.

I understand that the only bulwark, the only thing which the Communists still control, is that building on Twenty-first street where their various committees meet. This we expect to take away from them next week; and while ordinarily I would refuse to dispossess any tenant for any reason whatsoever, I shall regard it as a distinct privilege to take these people and throw them out on the street.

I want to congratulate this Convention on its courageous and intelligent leadership, on its faithful and loyal membership, on its past success and recent success. I hope for you greater things in the future and I am sure that these things will come.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

COMMUNICATIONS

New York, N. Y.

Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

Dear Comrade Schlesinger, I am sorry that I am unable to come to the Convention and celebrate with you the glorious triumph of the rebuilding of the organization, which you have achieved in such a wonderful manner with the assistance of the devoted and able men at the head of the organization. It was the miracle of resurrection. I greet you and wish you success in your new great undertaking of organizing the Dressmakers and bringing their organization to the glorious position it occupied in the past when it served as a model to all workers' organizations.

A. LIESSIN, Editor "Zukunft."

President Benjamin Schlesinger, Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. Congratulations for the year's progress and confident hopes for the future to my friends and comrades of the I. L. G. W. U. I regret that my standing speaking engagements in Texas keep me from the Convention and your banquet.

NORMAN THOMAS.

New York, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Convention, Cleveland, Ohio:

We extend our heartiest greetings to the Twentieth Biennial Convention. We are rejoicing with you the celebration of the great victories which have been accomplished by the able leadership of our International. We extend to you our best wishes for success in all your future undertakings.

EXECUTIVE BOARD, LOCAL 17.

ISAAC EPSTEIN, Acting Chairman.

New York, N. Y.

Benjamin Schlesinger:

The New York Women's Trade Union League, in meeting assembled, send you and the officers of the International and delegates of the Convention their heartiest greetings and congratulations. We look with pride upon the re-establishment of the International as the banner bearer of the trade union movement. With best wishes for a successful convention.

ROSE SCHNEIDERMAN, President.

New York, N. Y.

Benjamin Schlesinger, Convention, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

Heartiest congratulations from the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America. We, who follow your work with profound interest,

rejoice with you in your increased power to protect the workers in the industry. Your success is also ours. Your progress and achievements have gladdened the hearts of everyone in the labor movement.

JOSEPH HILLMAN, General President.

JOSEPH SCHLOSSBERG,

General Secretary-Treasurer.

New York, N. Y.

Benjamin Schlesinger, President, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Convention, Cleveland, Ohio:

On behalf of the National Labor Convention for the organized Jewish workers in Palestine composed of 740 representatives, we send our heartiest fraternal greetings to your Convention. We are happy and proud of the splendid success you have achieved in rebuilding and strengthening the International. We hope that you will achieve still greater success in your efforts to organize all branches of the Ladies' Garment Industry and that you will become again a great power for the welfare of your membership and for the entire labor movement.

ABRAHAM SHIPLACOFF, Chairman.

MORRIS FINESTONE, Vice-Chairman.

ISAAC HAMLIN, Secretary.

Cleveland, Ohio.

B. Schlesinger, President, and A. Baron, Secretary, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Convention, Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings and congratulations for work that your organization has done in the past and wishing you a successful future.

CARPENTERS' UNION LOCAL 1750.

M. BERKOWITZ, President.

MAG KOBLENTZ, Recording Secretary.

New York, N. Y.

Benjamin Schlesinger, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Convention, Cleveland, Ohio:

Please accept our heartiest congratulations on your recent victory in New York. Our Joint Board and our loyal membership join me in wishing you a successful convention. May all your future undertakings result in a victory for your great membership.

GEORGE GOOZE, Manager Joint Board Shirt and Boys' Waist Workers' Union, Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America.

New York, N. Y.

Abraham Baroff, Secretary, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

Heartiest congratulations upon your Twentieth Biennial Convention. May we all in short time reap from your concerted efforts



and deliberations. Local 66, always ready, as in the past, to do its part for its parent body, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

EXECUTIVE BOARD, BONNAZ EM.  
BROIDERERS' UNION, LOCAL 66.  
NATHAN RIESEL, Secretary.

New York, N. Y.

Delegates, I. L. G. W. U., Public Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. May your deliberations be crowned with success.

HARRY ZASLOWSKY, Local 10.

New York, N. Y.

A. Baroff, Secretary, Convention, International Ladies' Garment Workers, Cleveland, Ohio:

Heartiest congratulations. May the deliberations of this Convention, begun December 2nd, be as significant and successful as the strike begun on July 2nd on behalf of the New York Cloakmakers.

LOUIS LEVY.  
M. J. ASHDEB.

Brooklyn, N. Y.

Convention of International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

Allow me as one, who had at one time participated in your affairs and who earnestly had put all his endeavors towards the building of this great organization, congratulate you on the rebirth of your organization and wish you success in all your future undertakings, sincerely yours.

WILLIAM BARCAN.

New York, N. Y.

A. Baroff, Secretary, Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. Accept our heartiest congratulations and best wishes on the Twentieth Biennial Convention of our International. May the outcome of your deliberations bring great success to our Union.

ISIDORE SORKIN,  
Manager Jobbers Department Joint Board.  
MAX SCHOENFELD, Business Agent.

New York, N. Y.

A. Baroff, Secretary, Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. The Business Agents of Local 9 extend their heartiest congratulations and best wishes to the Twentieth Biennial Convention of the International.

WALLACE, REIN, MILLER AND COHEN.

New York, N. Y.

J. Halpern, 20th Convention of I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. May this Convention bring more peace and sunshine in the lives of us workers, who are involved in a class struggle against our will.

MANDELL BROTHERS WORKERS OF  
LOCAL 41, TUCKERS & HEMSTITCHERS.

New York, N. Y.

J. Halpern, Twentieth Convention of the I. L. G. W. U., Public Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio:

Our shop sends greetings to the Convention, expressing the hope that this Convention will bring a new and more harmonious era for a strong united labor organization.

TUCKERS' AND STITCHERS' ART  
TUCKING WORKERS OF LOCAL 41.

New York, N. Y.

A. Baroff, General Secretary, Convention, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Public Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings. Please convey to all the delegates my heartiest greetings. May your deliberations bring peace and harmony to our ranks and help to gain better conditions for our great membership.

MORRIS GOLDOWSKY.

New York, N. Y.

Convention, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings from one of the great masses.

S. HEIFERLING.

New York, N. Y.

Benjamin Schlesinger, President, Convention, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

To you to whom all the triumphs of our International are due my hearty wishes for more splendid accomplishments in behalf of our workers.

RENDE OF "GIUSTIZIA."

Chicago, Ill.

To the Officers and Delegates of the 20th Biennial Convention, I. L. G. W. U., Public Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio:

Accept my heartiest congratulations on your splendid achievements in the past two years. May your deliberations bring even greater success for our organization.

BARNET SCHAEFFER, Member Local No. 100

New York, N. Y.  
International Ladies' Garment Workers' Convention, Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings to Twentieth Biennial Convention. We are thankful for you for rechartering our local No. 17 and thus making us a part of the great family of locals of the International.

WORKERS OF PH. SCHLANSKY.  
FRANK SOLOMON, Chairman.

New York, N. Y.  
Convention Garment Workers, Public Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio:

Hail decision about dress strike in New York. We all stand ready to do our share in the great campaign to liberate our sisters and brothers from the slavery of non-unionism.

LUCY ROMUALDI.  
Member Executive Committee Local 80.

New York, N. Y.  
International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Convention, Public Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings to the 20th Bi-annual Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. Heartiest congratulations and best wishes for a successful solution of our industrial and internal problems. The thousands of workers in the dress industry will be looking forward to a restoration of high union standards, union wages, union conditions and unity and democracy in the shops. Let us keep the colors flying high. May our convention assembled in Cleveland be a source of new inspiration and restore the high moral standing, respect and command, which the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union enjoyed for the last decade.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD CLOAK, SKIRT AND DRESS PRESSERS' UNION, LOCAL No. 35.

J. GOLD, Acting Manager.

Toronto, Ont.  
I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:  
As the youngest local of the International, we extend to you heartiest congratulations. May your deliberation bring about greater success in the field of organization and improvement in the life of the Ladies' Garment Workers.

DRESSMAKERS' UNION LOCAL 72.  
I. L. G. W. U.

New York, N. Y.  
Abraham Baroff, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Convention:

Greetings on behalf of Pioneer Youth of America. We are thrilled by the magnificent comeback of your Union and the encouragement it is giving the movement generally.

Meanwhile Pioneer Youth endeavors to prepare labor's children to put to the best social uses the winnings of their parents' struggles.

WALTER LUDWIG, Executive Director.

New York, N. Y.  
B. Schlesinger, President, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

Unexpected strike in New York prevents me from going to Cleveland and personally convey to the delegates assembled at the Twentieth Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union the greetings and warm sentiments of the United Hebrew Trades. It is only but a short time since you left convention held in Boston, and yet what an astounding difference! What great results! From an almost prostrated body emerged a powerful organization fortified and well entrenched. Today you are in the position to protect not only members of your particular organization, but the labor movement at large. You are well able to defend their working conditions and interests. The United Hebrew Trades stood with you and by you from the time of your inception; your successes were our successes; your victories our victories; when attacked by the Communist distractors and traitors, we served you loyally and devotedly. We have organized a committee for preservation of trade unions and thus lined up entire labor movement behind you in the fight of riding your organization of all villains and demagogues. You are back on your feet now, influential, to carry on work for cultural advancement, powerful to safeguard economic and social wellbeing of the workers. Be assured that we are ready to serve you today with the same zeal and determination as we did in the past. During your deliberations may we expect that you will obligate your locals and yourself still closer co-operation with us and giving us the well-earned moral and financial backing. Congratulations and best wishes for a successful convention. May your decisions be an inspiration for still greater and more intensified activities to organize and emancipate the workers. Success in all future undertakings.

MORRIS FEINSTONE,  
Secretary, United Hebrew Trades.

New York, N. Y.  
Benjamin Schlesinger, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Convention, Cleveland, Ohio:

Both Mr. Hays and I deeply regret our inability to attend Convention. Appreciate greatly your invitation. Our congratulations and best wishes.

ROGER N. BALDWIN.

The convention was adjourned at 5 P. M. to Friday morning.

## Fifth Day—Friday Morning Session

Cleveland, Ohio, December 6, 1928

The Convention was called to order at 10 o'clock by President Schlesinger.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** The President of the American Federation of Labor, William Green, is in town. He arrived this morning. The following committee will escort him to the convention:

First Vice-President Ninfo, I. Feinberg, Local No. 2; I. Nagler, Local No. 10; Ida Rubin, Local No. 22, Louis Friend, Local No. 26. And now the Committee on Resolutions will continue its report.

**DELEGATE HELLER** continued with the report:

### Organization Campaign in Montreal

Your Committee received Resolution No. 73, the Resolve of which reads:

#### Resolution No. 73

Introduced by Albert Eaton, Local No. 19.

**RESOLVED**, that the 20th convention of the I. L. G. W. U. instruct the incoming General Executive Board to continue its support, morally and financially, of the Montreal campaign, so that the complete establishment of union control and union conditions may speedily be brought about.

Your Committee is pleased to learn that the Montreal cloakmakers were also stimulated by the present trend of organization and that without any intensive campaigns 600 workers have joined the ranks of the Union.

The Montreal cloakmakers received encouragement and help from the International in their efforts to organize the industry and this encouragement will be continued in the future.

Your Committee recommends the adoption of the above resolution.

This portion of the report was seconded by Vice-President Julius Hochman and adopted.

### Union Label Work

Your Committee received Resolutions Nos. 5 and 74, the Resolves of which read:

#### Resolution No. 5

Introduced by Local 66, New York.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. favor incorporation in any new agreement signed by the New York Dressmakers, a clause providing that no embroidery shall be made in any but Union Shops; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the General Executive Board shall install the Union Label in the Ladies' Garment Industry, so that a Union worker, whether he is a cutter, dressmaker, cloakmaker, or an embroiderer, shall not work on any but Union-made garments, thereby solidifying and cementing our Union.

#### Resolution No. 74

Introduced by delegation of Local No. 41, New York.

**RESOLVED**, that this Convention favor that the agreements entered into by the dress and other unions of the ladies' garment industry, shall embody a clause that all the above named accessories be made in union shops only; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the incoming General Executive Board be instructed to see that this time this provision is carried into effect to its fullest extent.

It is the opinion of your Committee that the inclusion of a clause in all contracts making it obligatory on the part of all employers to use only such embroideries, tucking, hemstitching and all other accessories that are made in Union shops, is of great importance for the maintenance of these highly seasonal and fluctuating industries.

Your Committee is also of the opinion that the introduction of the label which shall designate that such embroideries, tucking, hemstitching and other accessories have been made in Union shops, would be of tremendous help to our

workers in distinguishing Union from Non-Union embroideries, tucking, hem-stitching and other accessories and would aid in building up these industries and maintaining Union control.

Your Committee therefore recommends that the Resolves of both these Resolutions be referred to the incoming G. E. B., which shall make every possible effort to the end that these requests be carried out.

This portion of the report was seconded and adopted.

#### Finishers' Scale of Wages

Your Committee received Resolution No. 71, the Resolve of which reads:

#### Resolution No. 71

Introduced by Local No. 9, New York.

RESOLVED, that the 20th Biennial Convention of the International instruct the Incoming General Executive Board to formulate a plan to adjust the finishers' scales of wages at the future conferences with the employers' associations after the expiration of the present agreement.

Your Committee is in sympathy with the desires expressed in this Resolution. It is also aware that the G. E. B. as well as the Joint Boards, when negotiating agreements with employers, have always made an effort to equalize the minimum scales of the various crafts.

Your Committee recommends concurrence in this resolution.

The report was adopted.

#### Local No. 62 Agreements

Your Committee received Resolution No. 70, the Resolve of which reads:

#### Resolution No. 70

Introduced by Delegation of Local No. 62, New York.

RESOLVED, that this 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. instruct the Incoming General Executive Board to assist in these negotiations and render Local No. 62 all possible aid until the negotiations are satisfactorily completed.

Your Committee recommends concurrence in this Resolution.

The report was adopted.

#### Resolution on Labor Party

Your Committee received Resolution No. 96, the resolve of which reads:

#### Resolution No. 96

Introduced by Samuel Perlmutter, Israel Feinberg, Louis Pankin, Harry Greenberg, J. Stankevich, Philip Kramer, Isaac Posen, Sol Polakoff, N. Hines, Julius Hochman, Elias Reisberg, Harry Wander, Louis Reiff, Benj. Kaplan, A. Abramson, A. Student, Benj. Mosor.

RESOLVED, that this 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. reaffirm the traditional policy of our International in favor of the organization of a labor party.

Your Committee recommends concurrence in this resolution.

DELEGATE LOUIS PANKIN: In past years the International was one of the most radical unions in sponsoring movements in behalf of working class political action, but it has abated its activities. I think at this convention, with our Union again coming to the forefront and again showing the necessary virility and strength to carry on a movement of the sort, we should take some action along that line. I therefore think this convention would do one of its finest acts in passing this resolution to encourage and foster the ideas of independent political action in behalf of labor.

The motion was put to a vote and carried amid applause.

President Schlesinger read a telegram informing him that B. C. Vlodeck, Business Manager of the Jewish Daily Forward in New York, had been taken ill in Chicago and had to go back to New York and would, therefore, not be able to attend the Convention.

The president read a letter from Secretary Frank Morrison of the American Federation of Labor, announcing the death of Fifth Vice-President of the Federation, James P. Noonan, resulting from burns received in a fire in his apartment.

Vice-President Hochman moved the convention send a telegram of condolence to the family of Vice-President Noonan.



and that the delegates rise in respect to the memory of Brother Noonan.

The delegates adopted the motion and arose in respect to the memory of Brother Noonan.

Vice-President Amdur presented the report of the Committee on Unemployment Insurance, Old Age Security, Benefits and Group Insurance, and Union Health Center.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE  
on  
UNEMPLOYMENT, BENEFITS,  
GROUP INSURANCE, OLD AGE  
SECURITY AND HEALTH**

The Committee presents to you four separate sections:

**Unemployment**

One of the greatest evils of modern times is the unemployment of able-bodied men and women, who are eager to work and produce, and enjoy the products of their labor. The suffering of those victims of present day industrial society who are denied the elementary, physical necessities of a human being in the midst of plenty, can be appreciated only by those who experience it.

The position in which the unemployed worker and his family find themselves is tragic. But not less destructive is the psychological effect of unemployment on those who still have a job. Therefore, your Committee gave earnest consideration on the subject of unemployment from the point of view of furthering the interest of our members, strengthening our International Union and contributing to the general labor movement.

Though the United States is the richest country in the world, exciting the envy of every nation, yet, the millions of workers, who produce her wealth, are far from being satisfied. The worker is restless. Always concerned about his job; always in fear that his earnings may be suddenly interrupted; always alarmed by the thought that unemployment, illness or the approach of old age would leave his beloved ones helpless, in dire poverty.

To the seasonal and cyclical unemployment is being added another form—technological unemployment. The concerns of organized labor with this new type of unemployment was voiced by President Green of the A. F. of L.: "The rapidity with which skilled workmen are being forced out of their occupations is becoming more and more serious. When a skilled mechanic is forced out of his work because a machine takes his place, it is tragic. His work is gone; his skill is lost; his wages are usually lowered when he finds new work. His standard of living is thus reduced, and while he is idle his purchasing power is gone. It is everybody's loss."

The problem of unemployment is still more complicated by the tendency in industry to discard the middle aged worker on the ground that he cannot adjust himself to the speed up system in the same way as can a young worker without industrial habits. Frequently these workers are being thrown on the scrap heap to starve.

Though a similar condition may not exist in our industry, yet it concerns us vitally. This is because industry nowadays is inter-related.

President Schlesinger, in his thoughtful and interesting opening address, stressed this point in the following remark: "We are a part of the industrial fabric of our Nation, and it is but natural that our progress should be dependent, to a large extent, on the state of our national economy."

The unemployed in their search for work are often forced by economic circumstances to accept employment on conditions below the union standards. The effect of this is detrimental to the individual workers and to the hardwon union standards.

While the manufacturer and the retailer charge their yearly overhead expense to the months when the industry is most busy, the workers cannot make up the earnings which they have lost during the months of unemployment.

Our industry is one of the richest in the country. Its production amounts to hundreds of millions of dollars. There

is no reason why our workers should not get a fair return for their labor that would make life worth while.

In our industry the periods of unemployment undermine the workers' weekly earnings. They reduce it frequently to 50 per cent. A living wage, nowadays, should not be considered merely the daily expense of the worker. In his budget must be included the possibility of giving a fair education to his children, preparing them to lead a happy and useful life. It should include some savings for emergencies.

To meet the problem of unemployment through charity, is a blot on society. The Government should assume responsibility for the well-being of its citizens. But until the latter will do it, the needs created by unemployment should be met by industry. The first approach to it is unemployment insurance. We realize that this term is a misnomer for unemployment and is not remunerated for the loss caused by it, nor is he relieved from the suffering which accompanies it. But unemployment funds should be claimed by the worker as the first step to hold industry responsible for his livelihood in the hope that a national policy will be developed whereby he will be secured against starvation in time of unemployment.

As our members suffer from seasonal unemployment more than any other workers it was natural therefore, that our International should have the distinction of being the first union to introduce the first unemployment plan in the United States.

The successful effort of our International and the Cleveland Joint Board in providing in their agreement with the manufacturers for the establishment of an unemployment fund in addition to the time guaranty fund, is appreciated by our members. This benefits the workers employed by contractors who were not included in the first fund. To this fund the manufacturers and contractors contribute 1 per cent of their total payrolls.

Money deposited with the officers of the Impartial Chairman, is paid out to the workers through the office of the

Union. Our members in Cleveland appreciate the assistance they get from this fund. We commend our Cleveland Joint Board for extending the unemployment benefits to all their members, and we hold them up as an example to our unions in other markets.

#### New York Market

We are glad to know that on the insistence of President Schlesinger and the committee which he headed to negotiate an agreement with the employers in our last cloakmakers strike in New York, it was provided in the agreement that the unemployment fund be re-established as soon as the industry was fully organized. The insistence by our conference committee, that the employing interests alone should contribute to the fund, is a matter of justice. Our members are unable to provide for the long periods of unemployment, and we insist that the industry owes to its workers a livelihood.

Your Committee, fully appreciating the importance of unemployment insurance to our members, is making the following recommendation:

1. That the Incoming General Officers should do whatever possible to re-establish the unemployment fund in the New York Cloak and Dress Industries, and also in the Chicago market.
2. That our International Locals and our Joint Boards, whenever negotiating an agreement in a market in any branch of our industry, should endeavor to have an unemployment insurance fund clause included therein.
3. That wherever an unemployment insurance fund is established, all contributions thereto be held in one fund.
4. That the contributions to an unemployment insurance fund be made by the employing interests and none by the workers.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** I want to say just one word in connection with that report. In our agreement with the Cloak and Suit Manufacturers, we have a provision calling for the re-establish-

ment of the Unemployment Insurance Fund.

The report of the Committee was then adopted. Vice-President Amdur continued.

#### Old Age Security

The United States leads in material prosperity, yet the American worker is far from being prosperous. The worker suffers from a feeling of insecurity, always wondering how long he will be permitted to keep his job; what will happen to him and his family should he become incapacitated; what will befall him and his beloved ones when he grows old. In other important industrial countries of the world the wage-earners have proceeded with the aid of their governments to obtain a measure of security. Such assistance constitutes so-called social legislation. If social progress is judged by the enactment of such laws, then the United States may be classed with the most backward countries.

We consider it a crime to leave aged people to themselves or to let them become a charge upon charity. Men and women who toil during their lifetime, who help produce the wealth of the nation, should be provided with means of a livelihood when old age and inability to work approaches.

When the worker is unable any longer to compete with youth, and is forced to retire from active service in the industrial army, the State should offer him a retirement pension not less than it provides for soldiers who retire from military armies. Do our veterans of industry deserve less consideration than our veterans of war?

We are glad, therefore, to know that our International was amongst the founders of the American Old Age Security Association and that since its inception, our officers actively labored toward making it an effective instrument for the enactment of such legislation.

Your Committee considering the crying need of Old Age Security, therefore, makes the following recommendations:

1. That the incoming G. E. B. should continue to give moral, active, and financial assistance to the American Associa-

tion for Old Age Security, and to cooperate with other agencies that work to obtain Old Age Security legislation.

2. We urge, also, our local unions, and members individually, to take an active interest in the promotion of Old Age Security.

This was adopted and the Committee continued:

In connection with this report, we have considered the message received from the American Association for Old Age Security and referred to us by the Convention.

Appreciating the campaign that the Association is carrying on, at present, for the Old Age Security legislation, throughout the country, your Committee recommended to this Convention that Two Hundred Dollars should be contributed by the I. L. G. W. U. to this organization. This act we believe, is in accordance with the tradition of our International Union that always generously responded to every effort for social progress.

This was approved by the convention.

#### Benefit Funds

Your Committee gave earnest consideration to the question of the various benefit funds that exist in our Union. We are aware of the helplessness of the workers' family when its bread-winner is cruelly taken away from it, at the time he is most needed. Not in a better position do the worker and his family find themselves when the worker is sick. Many of them are afflicted with the workers' disease—tuberculosis. The Union is gradually becoming the organization that will have to provide for him and also take care of his health, stretch out a helping hand to his family when he is afflicted. The Union should assume greater and greater importance to the worker.

No wonder that sixty-one international unions pay millions of dollars to their members in sick, old-age and death benefits. Our Union too, never confined itself to collective bargaining alone, but took an interest in the lives of our workers and their families. Twenty-one of our



locals provide benefit funds. Amongst these are 7 tuberculosis funds, 15 sick benefits, 2 deaths and 2 old age benefit funds.

Your Committee after giving earnest consideration to the subject before you makes the following recommendations:

1. That the incoming G. E. B. make a study of the existing benefit funds in our local unions and joint boards and wherever necessary assist in placing them on a more scientific basis.

2. That the incoming G. E. B. advise our other local unions, which have not as yet established benefit funds, to do so as soon as possible and also assist them in that direction.

The recommendations were adopted.

#### Union Health Center

Discussing the various sick benefit funds established by many of our local unions, we think it appropriate for your Committee to reflect on the importance of our Union Health Center that is being discussed in the officer's report on page 123.

All the discoveries and achievements of medical science emphasize the importance of preventive measures. While it may possibly prevent certain diseases, medical science points to the difficulty of curing them. The worker has not the means to secure competent medical treatment, and at the free dispensary he feels that he is an object of charity. We, therefore, considered with great interest and satisfaction that portion of the General Executive Board's report to the Convention—page 123—that discusses our Union Health Center.

We wish to call your attention to the fact that our Union Health Center for years under the direction of Dr. George M. Price made an effort to make our members more health conscious. It stressed the importance of preventive measures by having periodic examinations given at the Union Health Center Life Extension Department.

Our International Union has the distinction of being the first labor organization in our country to provide a mod-

ern, competent, medical center, where our members and their families obtain expert treatment at a minimum cost. The same should be said about our Dental Clinic, where under the direction of Dr. Max Price, expert dentists are in charge of 20 chairs, in X-ray and Surgical Department.

The treatment given in our Union Health Center and Dental Clinic, is not confined to our members and their families, but is being extended to the labor movement as a whole in New York City and vicinity.

We commend the Board of Directors of our Union Health Center and Dental Clinic, and its directing heads, for placing the experiences and skill of our health institutions at the disposal of the labor movement. We also appreciate their efforts in saving the Union Health Center for our International during the most trying period of our organization.

We urgently request the delegates to this convention, and our local unions to give their active, moral support to our Union Health Center and to our Dental Clinic. This can be done by constantly bringing our health institutions to the attention of our members and their families.

**VICE-PRESIDENT BRESLAU:** I wish to make an amendment to the report.

The Union Health Center was originally established by three or four locals in New York and now we have six or seven locals connected with the Center.

During the time of the demoralization of our Union the Union Health Center was not able to support itself and we felt it necessary to go to the Central Labor Council and ask for its help and support and that all of the other labor unions in New York should be affiliated with this Center. While the other locals and members of our International have benefitted by the Union Health Center, it is no more than right that the locals affiliated with the International should join this Union Health Center.

The report as amended was adopted.



### Group Insurance

We are all aware of the fact that the worker is unable to provide for his family in case of incapacity or death. He and his family therefore are quite often objects of charity.

Companies in an effort to keep away their workers from joining unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, offer them various benefits including life insurance policies.

The results of many studies, show that these so-called benefactions promised by the companies to their workers are not protected by law and are frequently not carried into effect.

In order to meet the requirements of the workers for life insurance, the American Federation of Labor has organized the Labor Life Insurance Co. Over sixty national unions, including the I. L. G. W. U. have participated in the formation of the company.

Your Committee carefully examined the question of Group Insurance and submits to you the following report. In it is the plan for Group Insurance for trade union members.

1. Trade Union Group Insurance is a blanket form of renewable term life insurance.

2. Trade Group Insurance insures the life of every Trade Union member, providing insurance protection to the home and dependents at death and care to the permanently and totally disabled members, if less than sixty years old.

3. Trade Union Group Insurance includes every member—the older as well as the younger members. There is no age limitation. There is no medical examination. All are included under this form of insurance and under exactly the same terms and conditions.

4. This form of insurance remains in force as long as the insured remains a member of the Union. Unemployment, working at another trade, belonging to more than one union, travelling from one union to the other, retirement, or any other condition does not interfere with the insurance. The only requirement is

that the insured remain a member of the Union having contracted for the group insurance.

5. If and when a member leaves the Union for any reason whatever, he may convert his group insurance into an individual policy of like amount with the Union Labor Life Insurance Company within ninety days at the rate for his then attained age and without medical examination.

6. Death claims are paid immediately and in full upon receipt of proofs of death. There is no delay or unnecessary red tape.

7. In case of total or permanent disability before the age of sixty years, the whole amount of the insurance is paid to the disabled member on a monthly basis.

8. Members select their beneficiaries and may change them at will.

9. Cost of group insurance is based upon the ages of all members of a union. In most instances the cost of \$1,000 group life insurance for each member is \$1.00 a member per month. In a number of instances it is less. In a few cases the cost may be slightly higher because of the older ages of members involved.

10. Regardless of ages of members insured, the cost to each member is the same as to all others, no matter how old or young he may be.

11. All group insurance policies of The Union Labor Life Insurance Company are participating, so that the Union and its members share in net profits earned. Thus the insurance is carried at as nearly actual cost as law and safety will permit.

12. Local unions may insure all their members for any sum ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 insurance to each member.

13. Trade Union Group Insurance presents a special life insurance opportunity to every trade unionist and trade union. It makes the affiliation to the Union more attractive and more profitable. It strengthens the Union and

unites all trade unionists in a common enterprise for the protection of all and under an arrangement and cost which cannot be realized, in any other way.

14. Trade unions having a membership of fifty or more may apply directly to The Union Labor Life Insurance Company for group insurance for their members. Local unions having less than fifty members can be provided with this form of insurance through an arrangement with their respective National or International Unions. Thus arrangements are possible by which the members of the smallest as well as the largest unions may take advantage of this special opportunity of providing this form of insurance to their members.

Considering the importance of Group Insurance for our members your Committee is making the following recommendations:

1. We urge upon the delegates to this convention to bring before the Local Unions the question of Group Insurance.
2. The incoming G. E. B. should get in touch with our Local Unions and urge upon them to insure their members in the Group Insurance plan with the Union Labor Life Insurance Company.
3. The incoming G. E. B. should assist our Local Union to work out a plan to insure their members in groups.
4. We also request the delegates to this convention to recommend the Union Labor Life Insurance Company controlled by the organized labor movement for individual insurance policies wherever the occasion arises.

Respectfully submitted by the Committee on Unemployment, Benefits, Group Insurance, Old Age Security and Health.

Max Amdur, Chairman  
Fannia M. Cohn, Secretary  
H. Fried  
A. D. Glushakow  
Otto Pick  
M. Remback  
Dave Jerome  
Chas. Jacobson

Jack Silverstein  
Israel Rothstein  
Max Kolman  
Joe Alania  
Carrado Nizza  
Simon Packer  
Sol Polakoff  
Jacob Grossman  
Isaac Levy

The report as a whole was adopted.

During the report of the Committee President Green arrived in the hall and he was greeted with thunderous applause and cheers. At the conclusion of the report, President Schlesinger introduced him with the following remarks:

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** And now we are coming to the treat of the Convention. This is Brother William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor.

Before stating what President Green has done for our organization, I want to say what he has done for me personally. You remember the manifesto issued in New York about this time last year calling upon the cloakmakers to unite and come into the organization.

You also remember the movement that we had at that time for the raising of funds by issuing a bond. I want to tell you that before anything was done, either regarding the manifesto or the raising of funds, Brother William Green, the President of the American Federation of Labor and other officers in that organization were consulted.

If President Green would have in any way discouraged me at that time. I am very much afraid we would not have undertaken what we have; and it is possible that we would not have had the Convention here at this time. It was your encouraging words, President Green, your friendly attitude, the spirit that you instilled in us that has contributed to the rehabilitation of our organization.

So far as I am concerned, I was complimented yesterday and the day before, but I want to tell President Green that

if he had not encouraged me, I do not think I would have been able to have done anything at all. All of the thanks and appreciation that I have received so far really belong to President Green of the Federation.

Whenever it was necessary to deliver an address, he was on hand to help us, regardless of how busy he was, how far he had to travel. When we had our conference with the employers, recently, Brother Green sat with us and he certainly contributed a whole lot in the making of the agreement. I can't conceive of how this agreement could have been reached had Brother Green not been present. There is no doubt in my mind that Brother Green will be just as active and willing to do just as much for us in the future, as in the past and help us in our undertakings in the New York dress industry in which we are trying to eliminate the hundreds of sweat shops that have grown up during the last few years.

We have decided upon a strike in the city of Cleveland in case we can't get together with the employers in an amicable, peaceful way. We have decided to strike in Philadelphia. There will be a decision regarding Toronto, and many more resolutions and decisions made in connection with general strikes. I am certain that Brother William Green, of the American Federation of Labor, will do all he can and use all of the resources at his command to help us.

We love you, President Green, and whether you say it or not, we know you love us.

I take great pleasure in presenting you here.

(The assembly rose and cheered).

#### Address of President Green

President Schlesinger, Sisters and Brothers in the Trade Union Movement, Representatives of the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union: I am deeply touched by this very cordial welcome extended me this morning. But I am taking the liberty of construing it as more than a personal tribute. I feel

that it is an expression of your devotion and your loyalty to this great American Federation of Labor which I have the honor to represent. Coming to you this morning, may I extend to all of you the sincere fraternal greetings of the millions of working men and women associated with our great international labor movement. May I extend to you my personal felicitations and bring to you the greetings of the American Federation of Labor.

Our great American labor movement has been considerably benefited by your affiliation with it, and I take it for granted that you have been benefited as much by your association with the organized labor movement of the United States and Canada. It is inconceivable that this splendid organization, representing a group of workers engaged in giving loyal service in a great industry, would ever be outside of the great organized labor movement. I know that it is the purpose and the determination in the hearts and minds of every representative in attendance at this convention that so long as you can serve, so long as your voice can give expression to the feelings of your heart and mind, so long as you are associated in the ladies' garment making industry, just that long will you fight and see to it that you are an integral part of the great American Federation of Labor.

I have been greatly encouraged and most gratified during the past year or so, and particularly the past year, to observe the forward movement that has taken place in this great organization. I recall my meeting with you at Boston at your last convention and I remember that I found there abundant evidence of a feeling of unrest, of internal dissension, of discord. All of that, it appeared to me, hindered the officers and delegates in attendance at that convention in carrying forward a constructive and practical program. I know that I diligently applied myself to the task of trying to find a common solution of your administrative and internal problems. I held numerous conferences, trying to find a basis of accommodation upon which all could stand. I am glad that there was



manifested by those who participated in the conferences a genuine desire to re-establish and rehabilitate your organized movement upon a sound, secure, and enduring basis.

In coming to you this morning I find a united, harmonious organization. There is not manifest here the dissension and discord that was evident at the last convention of this great organization held in Boston. As a result of the re-establishment of team work, of co-operation in your movement during the past year, particularly in the cloakmaking branch of your organization, you have made tremendous progress, and so it seems to me that the lesson in co-operation, the collective action in team work, learned during this past year ought to be an incentive to you to go forward and do the same constructive work in the dressmaking branch of your industry as you have done in the cloakmaking branch.

And in that great undertaking, in the formulation of your plans, and in the execution of your policies, I want to pledge here and now, in behalf of the millions of workers whom I have the honor to represent and with whom you are associated, the undivided and loyal support of all of these workers, with myself included, in the execution of your plans and policies.

Our organized labor movement is founded upon a constructive and solid foundation. We want to travel the byways and the paths of industrial peace. There is no group in America that yearns more sincerely for the enjoyment of the right to live quietly and peacefully and securely than do the workers of America. Strikes and strife, like warfare, cost very much. Upon the bloody battle field in warfare there is no group in society that makes greater sacrifices and gives more than the workers of the world; it is for that reason that we are striving earnestly for the establishment of understanding and good will. As we do that, we are striving earnestly also for the establishment of understanding and good will between the forces of industry, those who work and those who manage. We would like to find a solution of all our common problems around the confer-

ence table, in the conference hall, where reason and judgment, free from the influence of passion and hate, govern the actions of men. But when those who manage and direct industry refuse, when they will not listen, when they are determined to crush every lofty ambition, hope and desire in the breast of the workers of this country, we will go out on the industrial field and, cost what it may, fight for the right to live decently in America.

That is the attitude of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. That is the attitude of the American Federation of Labor. Our great movement has learned much during the past fifty years. We have been schooled in the hard college of experience. But along with that experience developing our minds and our brains along constructive lines, we have developed courage and loyalty, and the American labor movement today, while being perhaps more practical and constructive than ever before in the history of our country, is just as militant as it ever was in its entire history.

I am reminded, as I stand here this morning, of the trials and difficulties of your splendid organization during the past few years. The wonder of it all is that it survived the tremendous attack made from within and from without. The heart of your movement must have been right. It must have been loyally devoted to trade union principles. Otherwise it would not have survived the gruelling fight which it had to live through.

You were assailed on the outside by unfavorable economic conditions and you suffered because your industry is highly seasonal. You were assailed from the inside by a foe that is more deadly than the one on the outside fighting you at arms' length. The poison of a strange philosophy was injected into the veins of your organization; it threatened you, as it pursued its deadly course, with destruction, and it was only because it never reached the heart of your movement that you survived.

I want to congratulate you upon the



splendid fight you made. To the men and women who stood true under the most trying circumstances, to them I pay the highest compliment and the greatest of praise. To your leaders who had vision and who understood what it all meant, who stood like a rock even when that philosophy seemed to be popular in some courses, to them my praise and commendation. And finally, to all associated with your great movement, I express my deep appreciation of the great service you rendered when you made the fight against this deadly foe, not only for yourself, but for the entire labor movement of our country.

There are two conditions in the ladies' garment making industry that must be wiped out. So far as I was concerned personally I resolved that, cost what it may, these two conditions must be eliminated. Neither of them has any place in our movement. Each of them is destructive, demoralizing, and deadly. I have resolved, with your help—and I know I speak the mind and the sentiment of our great labor movement—that the sweat shop in the ladies' garment making industry must be wiped out; and along with that, the other deadly influence must be completely destroyed; namely, Communism in the labor movement.

I recall when, under the leadership of my distinguished predecessor, a man who occupies a larger place in the hearts and minds of men and women in our great labor movement than any other individual, the great and mighty Samuel Gompers, an assault was made upon the sweat shops in the ladies' garment making industry in New York City and elsewhere. Brother Schlesinger, Brother Baroff, and many others stood with him and their efforts met with great success.

Public opinion was aroused against this inhuman institution, that form of human slavery and human industrial servitude. So long as the trade union movement represented by your organization in the ladies' garment workers' industry was permitted to function in a reasonable, practical and harmonious way, you were able to control the sweat shops, and with the assistance of the

organized labor movement you were able to establish working standards, rules and conditions of employment such as should exist. I recall that you established a system of unemployment benefits during that period, and that unemployment benefits were paid for some time, at least during that wonderful constructive period.

You were on the road to the realization of noble ideals and the hopes and aspirations of the leaders of our movement. If you had been permitted to function uninterruptedly without coming in contact with this new deadly foe, the sweat shop referred to by your President today as existing in many places would be a thing of the past. But it grew up because the opportunity presented itself, and your organization became so weak and helpless that it was not able to resist the encroachment of this destructive institution. For you had been called upon to battle with an internal foe.

Now you have been fighting and struggling to get back and you are getting back. You are getting back strong and aggressive, and in my judgment, so long long as you pursue this policy, nothing will stop you in your onward work of progress for humanity and for the workers of America.

Our great organized labor movement is a wonderful human institution. I could not come here this morning without referring to this phase of our movement. We are dealing with human values, superior and paramount to any other intrinsic and material values in human life. We are trying to raise the lives of men and women to a higher plane. We are trying to make life worth while for the average person. We are trying to save the children from being sacrificed upon the altar of industrial service. Ours is the voice constantly protesting against the imposition of inhuman conditions upon the toilers and workers and we raise our voice in protest. We also raise it in a vigorous announcement of our forward progressive plans in our battle with the forces of greed and destruction.

There is one other feature of this humane side of our movement to which I wish to call your especial attention. Where is there a movement in America that is so broad and comprehensive in its humane program as the great American labor movement? We are endeavoring to blend into a common brotherhood, men and women who speak every tongue and who come from every nationality in the world. Ours is the one movement in America that recognizes no creed, no color, no religion, or nationality, and yet we are for all nationalities, for all creeds, and for all religions, and we demand with one great voice in America that no person shall be deprived of the right to exercise all the benefits and blessings conferred upon him by the constitution of our great country.

I speak in this emphatic manner here because there is no class of workers in America to whom these eternal truths are more valuable than to you sitting here within the sound of my voice and to those whom you have the honor to represent. You cannot afford, my fellow-trade unionists, to ally yourselves with any movement that preaches class hatred and class distinction. You cannot, for the sake of protection for yourselves and your great race, ever ally yourselves with any force that would array one class against another or one nationality against another! What we want is to establish a common brotherhood based only upon the worth of men, based only upon the merit and the virtue of mankind, let him come from where he may, and it is upon that great cardinal principle that the American Federation of Labor stands. When your race, your people, yourselves are assailed by fanatics who would attack you because of your religion, because of your standing, because of your political creed, let it be what it may, remember that in the background stands the American Federation of Labor to come to you with its support and its protection and that is one of the reasons why the American Federation of Labor has steadfastly opposed the philosophy of Communism with all its class hatred and destruction.

It has no place in America. It can

find no sympathy here. It is the unyielding, irreconcilable foe of the trade union movement, and because it is the unwed uncompromising foe of the American Federation of Labor, we accept the challenge, and as long as the American Federation of Labor banner floats in America it will be seen leading the hosts of Americans against this deadly foe in our economic, social and industrial life.

Now, my friends, I want to pay tribute to your great President and his associates, Brother Dubinsky who has been ably assisting him, Brother Baroff, and all of the others. The services they have rendered during the past year has been little short of remarkable. It is difficult to comprehend how such a complete change in the psychological attitude of the representatives of the ladies' garment workers as manifested in this convention, could be brought about, how you could have led a strike so successfully in the cloakmaking branch of your industry, and how you could have won such a decided victory.

They deserve the commendation, and the support, and the praise, if you please, of every man and woman associated with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and of every one associated with our great Labor Movement.

As for Brother Schlesinger, a pathetic figure, tragic, stalwart, with a heart more courageous and strong than his physical frame,—there must be a wonderful devotion to a great cause when a man suffering from ill health, as he has suffered, when a man ill because of service rendered, keeps going, when we all know that he ought to rest and conserve his strength and energy. It is only men who are moved by a great and mighty impulse who would keep going under such grave circumstances, such grave consequences, and yet here he is at this convention with his usual vigor and spirit, standing up with his breast bared to the enemy, strong and vigorous in his devotion to our cause, and with his aggressiveness against injustice and wrong.

You owe him a lot. You owe him more than you can ever pay. I wish I could say all of the things that are in my heart. I wish that this mouth of mine could give expression to the feeling of my heart and mind regarding the service of your leader. I can only say, all honor to your President. He deserves your support, and may a grateful Providence grant that his health shall be spared to serve you indefinitely.

I want to tell you that your leaders are respected by the officers and members of the American Federation of Labor. We have confidence in their judgment, and in their ability, their loyalty and devotion to our cause. They are regarded as of very great value in the councils and in the confidence of the men and women of labor. Let no man tell you that your organization and your leaders do not occupy a strong and influential position in our great American labor movement.

This humane side of our movement, the devotion of men to the cause, is really a religion to us. It moves our hearts when we are fighting for the pale faced girl, the worn, expressionless man, the underfed, and undernourished group, working in the sweat shops and factories. Our hearts are moved mightily, and it becomes, as it were, a religion to the men and women of labor, moving us to action, inspiring us to greater service, influencing us to give all we have and nothing less to this cause, the American Labor Movement.

Now may I speak for just a moment upon the economic phase of our great labor movement? We are the one considerable force in American life that is dealing constructively with economics.

I am glad to observe that not only the men in executive authority of the nation, but men of nation-wide standing as economists and philosophers have accepted the economic philosophy of the American Federation of Labor. Recently we have had a very clear demonstration of the acceptance of this sound economic philosophy which we originally announced. You have noted in the public press that following the collapse in the

stock market, the President of the United States, representing all of the people of our country, became conscious of a change in the industrial and economic life of our nation.

It was impossible for more than thirty billions of dollars of values to be wiped out over night, as it was when the stock market collapsed, without the industrial and economic structure of our country feeling the effect of that great shock.

The President, sensing the situation, economist as he is, called conferences for the purpose of trying to stabilize the situation, to overcome two things: material facts and the psychological condition, and get the people thinking right as well as working right, so that we could avoid a repetition of the terrible consequences through which we passed in 1907 and in 1921.

Remember that this great economic machine is so delicately balanced that when it gets going downgrade and the cycle of industry moves in that direction, it is not easy to change it right-about-face and bring it back, going on its way in normal direction. We have gone through that experience in 1893 and 1894, and then at a later period in 1907, and at a period remembered by most of you, in 1921.

The President was alarmed. He wanted to avoid that awful experience in America if it was possible to do so and in my opinion he showed great wisdom, fine discretion, and a noble purpose in responding to the needs of the occasion, giving all he could, in every way he could, to stay the thing, to stabilize industry and to prevent the economic machine from going downhill to the lowest point of industrial demoralization.

The American Federation of Labor has held consistently and soundly that low wages and adversity go hand in hand, and that prosperity and high wages are related, conditions operating advantageously in the interest of society. We feel that the prosperity of any community is reflected in the pay envelope of the worker—not so much in the banks and in the bonds, but in the pay envelope through which the money is distributed



and with which the things that manufacturing plants produce are bought and used, and that when unemployment comes on wide-spread, with a reduction in wages, we are headed to a deplorable condition that must be stopped. The President, realizing this situation, announced that there must be no reduction in wages; that employers should immediately interest themselves in finding ways to prevent unemployment, and that labor should respond by remaining steady and by stabilizing the situation so far as it could, and thus gradually build back this economic machine to the point where it would function and move in the right direction.

Our theory of high wages has been proved. There must be no reduction in the wages of any worker in the United States of America. The great organized labor movement must continue to build this economic structure so that it will be prepared to take advantage of every opportunity that presents itself to increase the wages of the workers, to shorten the hours of employment, to bring opportunities for recreation and vacations with pay to every working man and woman engaged in industry.

The facts are that not only must there be no reduction in the purchasing power of our people, but that the wages of working men and women must continue to increase in proportion to their increased production facilities and ability. Unfortunately the figures show that this has not been the case. Through the introduction of improved methods and power the worker has been made increasingly efficient. The figures are about like this: The productive ability of the worker has increased during a stated period about 45 per cent, while wages have only increased about 18 per cent. We are going to fight so that when the worker increases his ability to produce 45 per cent, the wages of the worker must increase 45 per cent also. As a matter of economic fact, this is essential and necessary if the worker is to buy back and use the things that he produces, and unless you can find a way to consume the goods that manufacturing plants produce, unless the consum-

ing ability of the people can be built up even in excess of their productive ability, we will have these periods of recession with their alarming consequences facing us. So, as I look into the future, I see a constantly rising standard of living, a better wage for the workers, improved conditions of employment, the development of a high and still higher consuming power among the masses of people, and that can all be secured if we will develop our organization and make it strong enough to force from reluctant and unwilling employers the increase to which we are entitled, as a result of our increased ability to produce.

I am of the opinion that the years 1930 and 1931 will see in America the most comprehensive and largest building construction program ever launched in the history of our country.

As a result of the crash, money is made easier. It is more ready and available, and building constructors and contractors can now borrow money in large amounts at a much lower and reasonable rate of interest, and that will mean an impulse to building construction. In my judgment, beginning with early spring and going on in the summer, building will grow and increase and expand, and all of that will help industry wonderfully.

I fear I am taking up too much time in dwelling upon this, but it occurred to me that it was a matter of interest to you and I would take advantage of this opportunity to enlarge upon it. Bear this in mind: The economic philosophy of the American Federation of Labor has been vindicated in this crash, this experience through which we are passing. Employers, leading employers as well as the executives having the direction of the administrative affairs of our government, now realize that high wages must be maintained and higher wages must be paid if prosperity is to be maintained in the United States of America. With men thinking along that line, with those in authority announcing their belief in that economic philosophy, it makes our work easier in fighting for higher wages and improved conditions of employment.



The American Federation of Labor has been vindicated in its policy launched quite a long time ago to secure the shorter workday and shorter workweek for the working men and women of America. We announced that it would be a panacea for unemployment, and that if there wasn't enough work for men eight hours per day, then give them all work at five, and if you can't give them work at five, it should be divided so they can work, all work, at least four hours per day.

We must not have any large unemployed class in America. Our task is to find every man a job at a decent rate of pay, and at a short workweek and short hours, so he can really live. We have practically established the five-day workweek in some industries. The building trades enjoy it practically everywhere. We are putting it in the miscellaneous trades. You are able to do it in your seasonal industry, and I am sure that we are going to establish it throughout the United States of America, and I hope to live to see that day.

May I refer to your own question, your own problem? I want to again congratulate your officers, your leaders, your members upon the great success which attended your efforts in the cloakmaking branch of your industry. You did wonderful constructive work and you learned much. It was a great lesson. You found that after all it is not by loose talk and wild discussion that economic problems are settled. You found that they must be dealt with in a very practical and constructive way. You applied yourselves diligently to the task. You received the support of public opinion. I want to pay a great compliment to the splendid work which the Governor of New York, Governor Roosevelt, and that other outstanding American associated with him, Lieutenant Governor Lehman, and your own Impartial Chairman, Mr. Ingersoll, all gave to this problem of the cloakmaking branch of your industry. These men rendered to you a very great service.

I am sure they will be with you now as you attempt to do the same thing, the same constructive work in the dress-

making branch of your industry. You need it badly there. The sweat shops, the low wages, the long hours, the demoralizing, competitive conditions that prevail, call for constructive service. I know you are equal to the occasion.

If it is necessary for you to engage in another struggle and in another fight, then do not hesitate, but go into it with all the force and vigor you possess. Justice is on your side, you are bound to win.

Please understand that I am equally interested with you. I rejoice as though I were a garment worker myself when you improve your conditions, and any service I can render with my heart or my powers, or my office, or the great American Federation of Labor to assist you to reach success and victory in this new undertaking, please count on me and I will respond to any request you may make.

Now, in conclusion, may I say to you that I am encouraged by my visit here, by this manifestation of enthusiasm, devotion and loyalty to the great principles of the American Federation of Labor? I feel that there is no power within or without that can either weaken or destroy your great labor movement. There is a great future for you. Bind up the wounds that may have been made, close up your ranks, eliminate internal dissension. Let no enemy or professing friend undermine the confidence of the rank and file in your leadership. Have confidence and faith in your leaders as you have confidence and faith in the eternal principles of your great labor movement, and by example and precept of solidarity and unity and strength, you will command and mobilize behind you the public sentiment of our country; a force, which, when properly aroused, will win victory in spite of opposition. (Ovation.)

**VICE-PRESIDENT DUBINSKY:** I know that the delegates to this convention who have come here from every part of the country, feel that President Green's address is worth any effort they may have made to get here.

I have twice had the privilege of at-

tending the conventions of the American Federation of Labor, and to me it was an intellectual treat to attend the meetings at which President Green presided. I also had the opportunity of attending a conference of presidents of International Labor Unions in connection with the Southern textile situation which President Schlesinger was unable to attend, and that also was a great inspiration to me.

President Green mentioned the fight in which we won out in the last few years against the foes of the American labor movement. It was a war—a war in the full sense of the word, and President Green assisted us on many occasions. President Green and the American Federation of Labor have received the thanks and appreciation of the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union for their assistance and for the service they have rendered in this great war, but there is one phase of it that has been omitted and to which I want to call your attention.

The Communists thought there was one strategic position in which they were entrenched. They felt that this was their strongest fort, and that they would be able to fire the ammunition against the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union from there. The American Federation of Labor recognizing this, undertook the important task of re-organizing the fur workers' union. This proved of invaluable assistance in the fight which spread throughout the needle trades against this disruptive element.

Mr. President, I move that we not only thank President Green for coming to us and delivering this eloquent message, which I am sure will be an inspiration to us in all our activities, but that we insert the address in the minutes and instruct the general officers to print this address in our official publication.

The motion was carried amid general applause.

The convention adjourned to 2:30 P.M.

## Fifth Day—Friday Afternoon Session

Cleveland, Ohio, December 6, 1929

The convention was called to order at 2:30 by President Schlesinger.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** Vice-President Wander will read the report of the Committee on Education.

### Report of Committee on Education

Your committee on education has analyzed that part of the report of the G. E. B., dealing with the educational activities of the International for the past nineteen months. The report consists of a review of the various branches of activity of this department which, in our opinion, is of great importance to our International.

The committee has taken cognizance of the fact that the period covered by this report was the most trying in the life of our International. Under these circumstances the Educational Depart-

ment, like all other branches of our activities, has been affected and could not function as it should. It is, therefore, most remarkable that under such circumstances this department has been able to accomplish as much as it did. We hope, however, that with the great change that has taken place in our general situation it will be possible for the incoming G. E. B., to find a way of expanding the activities of this department to such an extent as to enable it to render greater service to our membership.

We believe that the great change in our general situation warrants such an expansion. Your committee, therefore, recommends:

1. That the Educational Department be continued and its work expanded when conditions will permit.
2. That said department communicate with our locals, outside of New

York City, regarding the possibilities of organizing educational activities in their respective localities.

3. That the Educational Department devote special attention to mass-education in the form of lectures on trade-unionism, open forums, etc., in different languages, and particularly in Italian, so as to enable our members to derive the full benefit therefrom.

Your committee also received the following two resolutions, dealing with the activities of the Educational Department:

#### Resolution No. 38

Introduced by the Delegation of Local No. 35, the Resolves of which read:

RESOLVED, that this Convention instruct the incoming General Executive Board to reorganize the Educational Department, so that it teach our members trade unionism and not dogmas; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that should the incoming General Executive Board not be in a position to reorganize that Department as such, the Board should have the power to dissolve the Educational Department entirely.

Your Committee, in going over the activities of the Educational Department, as reported by the G. E. B. to this convention, does not find that the Educational Department has taught our members any dogmas. Your Committee finds that this department has endeavored to the best of its ability, to fulfill the functions for which it was created; if it has not succeeded fully in its efforts, it was due to various circumstances.

Your Committee is also of the opinion that the G. E. B., has full authority to make such changes in the program of the Educational Department as it may deem necessary.

The other desires expressed in this resolution are covered in our recommendation No. 3.

Resolution No. 37, introduced by 43 delegates, of different locals, the resolves of which read:

#### Resolution No. 37

RESOLVED, that the Twentieth Biennial Convention of the I. L. O. W. U. held in the city of Cleveland, express its appreciation to

the General Executive Board and its officers for the support and encouragement they gave our Educational Department; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that we expect the incoming General Executive Board to continue to support our Educational Department, and so assure its uninterrupted functioning, for the enlightenment of our members, and for the good of the International Union in particular, and the Labor Movement in general.

This resolution is covered by our recommendation No. 1.

In conclusion your committee wishes to express its appreciation to the G. E. B. for the support and co-operation given to the Educational Department and to all others who helped make the work of this department successful. And last, we wish to express our appreciation of the untiring efforts and devotion displayed by the Secretary of the Educational Committee, Sister Fannia M. Cohn.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Wander, Chairman; Louis Pankin, Secretary; Ida Rubin, M. Yankelewitz, Harry Ettinger, Sam Richman, Fannie Shapiro, Ethel Spink, Lillian Raitano, Leo Arch, Joseph Miller, Sarah Greenberg, Mollie Friedman, R. Zuckerman, S. Goldstein, Salvatore Bigolie and Dorothy Jasinska.

DELEGATE REIFF, Local No. 35, stated that while the Committee did not call upon the delegation of his Local in reference to the resolution that they introduced about the Educational Department, he felt that inasmuch as the incoming General Executive Board would have the power to act not only upon the Educational Department, but upon every department of the International, he and his delegation approve the recommendation of the Committee.

DELEGATE DRASIN, Local No. 38, pointed to the fact that the Educational Department of the International is widely known and admired in the labor movement of the United States and abroad. He, therefore, felt that the Educational Department should not be given up and he approved the Committee's recommendation.



**VICE-PRESIDENT BRESLAU** pointed out that the recommendation of the Committee is similar to the one the delegation of his Local 35 introduced except for the word "discontinue" which empowers the General Executive Board to dissolve the department in case it sees fit to do so. He said that he certainly was not against education, but when a department does not serve a useful purpose or does not do its work efficiently, the Board should have a right to abolish it.

**VICE-PRESIDENT HOCHMAN** offered an amendment that the incoming G. E. B. make a study of the possibilities of education for International members and have power to act upon its findings.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER** explained that he would favor Vice-President Hochman's amendment if it stipulated merely that the G. E. B. investigate and report to the next Convention.

The final proposition adopted by the Convention included President Schlesinger's recommendation, to the effect that educational possibilities should be studied and reported, but that the department should not be abolished.

**VICE-PRESIDENT WANDER** moved the adoption of the report of the committee as a whole, together with changes. The motion was adopted and the Committee was discharged with the thanks of the Convention.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER** presented Alexander Kahn, representative of the People's Tool Committee to address the convention.

#### Address of Alexander Kahn

**MR. ALEXANDER KAHN:** I am appealing to you in behalf of war sufferers. I think that you are the most characteristic of war sufferers that I know. Just a short time ago you went through what the people in Europe have been going through for a long time, but with a great deal more of suffering. The Communists succeeded in creating a condition in your organization which

spoiled chaos, ruin, degradation, and entire disruption, and that is the condition of the war sufferers.

I want to say, recent developments in the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union are nothing short of a miracle to the outside world. It looked as if out of your own midst there sprang up a prophet who talked over the heads of the high priests, over the heads of the rulers, and appealed to the common sense of the mass of your workers.

There was a condition of absolute hopelessness, an absolute spirit of defeat. The miracle is that in such a short time the will to live and the will to win had been restored. But that isn't all. The organization was absolutely bankrupt. I want to say at the same time that the credit for bringing it back to this condition cannot belong to just one man. It belongs to all men who stood by the organization up to the present time. But no man could have bridged over as did Schlesinger. There was only one man who could do it and did it. If Moses could draw water out of a stone, Schlesinger deserves credit for drawing hundreds of thousands of dollars from nothing.

The express purpose for which I appear before you is to ask your help in the campaign that is being carried on now for the purpose of providing tools and teaching trades to the declassed in Russia. These people are deprived of the common comforts of life, but if they were able to learn a trade, they could make their living and take their place in society. I am happy to say that for every dollar we are able to send to Russia for that purpose, the Russian Government will furnish two or three dollars.

I know that your organization has been very generous before. The Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, in one year, donated \$200,000, and that set a standard of generosity, a standard of human feeling that reflects itself in the \$100,000,000 which has been raised for that purpose. Your generosity exhibited at that time benefited you, because when you were in distress and you appealed to



the world, it responded to you just as generously.

I know that if you are able to give you will give. So I merely come to wish you success in your struggle. The struggle of labor for a better world is beginning to be accepted by people all over the world as the only forward movement for the purpose of saving mankind from war and degradation. People all over the world are beginning to realize that in order to save civilization from constant war and degrading poverty they must elevate labor, and when labor is elevated the whole world will be happier. (Applause.)

Upon motion of Delegate Chancer of Local No. 2 Mr. Kahn's request was referred to the Resolutions Committee, with instructions to report a proper resolution to the Convention.

**VICE-PRESIDENTS BRESLAU and REISBERG** presented the report of the Organization Committee.

#### Report of Organization Committee

Your Committee on Organization has received a number of resolutions pertaining to organization work in various ladies' garment trades and centres in the United States and Canada. Your Committee also read sections of the report of the G. E. B. in which the problems of organization are discussed and which deals with various centres where ladies' garments are made and organization work is required.

We also had representatives of various locals and centres appear before the Committee to explain the requirements and needs for organization work and the general spirit prevailing in these Locals and centres. Impressed by all this, the Committee finds that there is a general revival of spirit and rejuvenation throughout the country from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast, as well as in the Dominion of Canada and that the ladies' garment workers, wherever they are employed, are imbued with an earnest desire for strengthening the Unions, as well as for the building of

new organizations in those localities where the trades are unfortunately unorganized. This revival of spirit came as a result of the great achievement of our International Union and the New York Joint Board in the recent cloakmakers' strike under the able leadership of our worthy President, Benjamin Schlesinger. It is a general feeling that the International, after several years of turmoil and depression, has emerged now strong enough, powerful enough to become again a factor, which can obtain better conditions of employment and create better conditions of life for all those ladies' garment workers who toil throughout the industry.

Your Committee feels that organization work is the very fundamental basis upon which a Union can thrive and become influential and powerful. Being imbued with these sentiments and with these impressions and taking cognizance of the duties placed upon it by this Convention, your committee carefully considered and examined all facts in connection with the various resolutions presented. It, therefore, submits to you recommendations for consideration and adoption of the following resolutions:

#### Resolution No. 58

Introduced by Local No. 4, Baltimore, Md., the Resolve of which reads:

**RESOLVED**, that the 20th convention of the International authorize and direct the calling of a general strike in the Baltimore market during the coming Spring season for the purpose of establishing recognition of the Union and union standards of work and wages.

Delegates Glushakow and Mollie Friedman appeared before the Committee in connection with the Baltimore situation. It was stated by them that Baltimore has a small membership in the Union, although there are approximately 3,000 cloakmakers employed in 60 shops in the City of Baltimore. The workers in that particular trade are employed under the most miserable conditions, working unlimited hours, receiving low wages under the inside contracting system. It

is the belief of Brother Glushakow and Sister Friedman that if the International would conduct an organization campaign, all the Baltimore workers would respond to its call. Furthermore it was brought out in the discussion that Baltimore has become quite an important center in our industry and is a threatening menace to New York particularly, as well as Philadelphia, Cleveland, Chicago, etc.

At one time, Local No. 4, which is one of the oldest Locals of our International, was a very splendid organization, but as elsewhere, because of adverse conditions, Local No. 4 is now confronted with the necessity of rebuilding the Union.

Your Committee also took into consideration page No. 101 of the report of the G. E. B. covering this situation and the comments made thereon.

Your Committee therefore recommends that this Convention decide that immediately after adjournment the G. E. B. stand instructed to conduct an intensive organization campaign with a view to establishing union standards and conditions in Baltimore.

Your Committee also received Resolutions Nos. 52, 53 and 61.

#### Resolution No. 52

Introduced by Local No. 100, Chicago, Ill.—the Resolve of which reads:

RESOLVED, that the 20th Biennial Convention instruct the General Executive Board to pay special attention to the purpose of rebuilding the Dressmakers' Union in Chicago and have the trade organized.

#### Resolution No. 53

Introduced by Local No. 100, Chicago, Ill.—the Resolve of which reads:

RESOLVED, that the incoming General Executive Board give this matter special consideration with the aim of placing a Polish Organizer in the City of Chicago.

#### Resolution No. 61

Introduced by Chicago Delegation, the Resolves of which read:

RESOLVED, that the incoming General Executive Board be instructed to conduct a vigorous organization campaign with the object

of completely unionizing the dressmakers in the City of Chicago; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the General Executive Board be empowered to call, at the opportune time, a general strike, if necessary.

Vice-Presidents Bialis and Friedman and other delegates of the Chicago Joint Boards Locals, appearing before the Committee, stated that there were about seven thousand dressmakers in Chicago, the greater portion of whom were unorganized and that it was impossible for them to keep up the organization of dressmakers unless the others were organized.

They further stated that if the Convention decides to assist financially the Joint Board of the Cloak & Dressmakers' Union of Chicago they would be able to conduct a successful campaign and carry it to a successful end.

Recalling that at one time the Chicago Dressmakers' Union was an influential factor in the dress market of that city, but due to unfortunate conditions, had met with reverses in recent years, your Committee, therefore, recommends that this matter be referred to the incoming G. E. B. with a view to making all arrangements with the Chicago Joint Board in order to organize the dressmakers of that city.

Your Committee received a number of resolutions pertaining to the raincoat industry. These resolutions deal with two specific centres, eastern and middle western.

#### Resolution No. 41

Introduced by the delegations of Locals 20, 24, 54 and 102, of New York, Boston, Chicago and Montreal, respectively, the Resolves of which read:

RESOLVED, that the incoming General Executive Board, immediately upon adjournment of this 20th convention of the I. L. G. W. U., assign an organizer who shall have jurisdiction over all organization work among the raincoat workers of Boston and vicinity; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this organizing work be financed by the International.

**Resolution No. 42**

Introduced by Local 54, Chicago, the Resolve of which reads:

RESOLVED, that the incoming General Executive Board be instructed by this 20th convention of the I. L. G. W. U. to assist, financially as well as morally, in the continued efforts to organize these shops.

**Resolution No. 43**

Introduced by Locals No. 20, 24, 54, and 95, the Resolve of which reads:

RESOLVED, that the incoming General Executive Board, on adjournment of this convention assign an organizer to work among the raincoat workers of the Middle West.

**Resolution No. 44**

Introduced by Locals No. 20, 24, 54 and 102, the Resolve of which reads:

RESOLVED, that an organizer be assigned to the Eastern Out-of-Town organization department who shall have supervision of organization work among the raincoat workers in the territory indicated above.

All the delegates representing the raincoatmakers of New York and out of town centres, such as Local No. 20, New York, Local No. 54 of Chicago and delegates from Boston as well as officers of the Joint Board of various centres appeared before the Committee.

The Committee ascertained that there are about five thousand unorganized raincoatmakers in Boston and vicinity, and that organization can be achieved only through the efforts of a special organizer, familiar with the trade, the needs and psychology of the raincoatmakers and employers. Up to the present, organization work was maintained by Local No. 20, which is a local of our International. This Local now declares that it is financially unable to carry on. There were also committees of raincoat makers of Chicago, who stated that there are unorganized raincoat makers in Chicago proper and about one thousand unorganized raincoat makers in Milwaukee, Wis., and many suburban towns around Chicago. All of these workers, in their opinion, could be or-

ganized providing the International offered assistance.

Your Committee feels that the raincoat making industry is an important part of our ladies' garment industry. We have a great number of raincoat makers organized, working under union conditions. The open shop centres are threatening to undermine the conditions our Union members have been enjoying. Your Committee in deliberating on the raincoat making industry and its need for organization work could not withhold its words of praise for the splendid service rendered by Local No. 20 in its sincere efforts to help the International in the unionization of the raincoat makers outside of its jurisdiction. Local No. 20 has done its share fully and earnestly and now when the Local finds it impossible to continue along the lines mentioned, your Committee recommends that this entire matter be referred to the incoming General Executive Board. We believe that the G. E. B. will do all in its power to help organize these raincoat makers.

As the raincoat shops are located in the vicinity of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Connecticut, we recommend that the incoming G. E. B. arrange with the Out-of-Town Department to take care of the unionization of raincoatmakers.

**Resolution No. 50**

Introduced by A. Kirzner, Joint Board, Toronto; S. Abrahams, Local No. 14, Toronto; S. Kreisman, Local No. 92, Toronto; A. Eaton, Local No. 19, Montreal, the Resolve of which reads:

RESOLVED, that this 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. instruct the incoming General Executive Board immediately to appoint an organizer for Montreal and launch an organization campaign with a view to establishing union standards in both cities.

The International in the past has devoted a great deal of attention to the Montreal market and on a number of occasions special organizers were sent there by the International. Not so long ago the Union there was of fair size and exer-

cised an influence over the industry for the benefit of the workers. Due to the Communist adventurers, the Montreal Union suffered a setback. It now appears that the Montreal workers, as the workers in every other centre, are awakening to the old spirit of unionism and are ready again for organization and for sane, constructive trade union activity. We read in the report of the G. E. B. on page 101 that the International should encourage them in their efforts and also lend a helping hand when the proper hour is reached.

The Committee recommends that the incoming G. E. B. institute a campaign to aid the Montreal workers in their organization efforts.

Your Committee received Resolutions No. 40, and No. 47, the Resolves of which read:

#### Resolution No. 40

Introduced by the delegates of the Boston Joint Board and the Boston Locals, the Resolve of which reads:

RESOLVED, that this 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. instruct the incoming General Executive Board to do everything possible to assist the Boston Joint Board and call a general strike in the Boston cloak and dress industry immediately upon expiration of the present agreements.

#### Resolution No. 47

Introduced by the Boston Delegation, the Resolve of which reads:

RESOLVED, that this Convention instruct the incoming General Executive Board to do everything possible to help the Joint Board of Boston carry on an extensive organization campaign in the cloak industry, and help enable our workers to enjoy Union Conditions and make a better living in the cloak industry.

The Boston market has suffered a setback in recent years owing to the Communists' tactics and unscrupulous activities. The Communists made it their business to convert Boston into a centre for their so-called Industrial Union. As a result, the Union forces in Boston were shattered. In the report of the G. E. B., page 95, a complete picture of the events that have taken place is giv-

en. But due to the aid of the International Office and due to the aid of the Special Committee, appointed by President Schlesinger, consisting of Acting President Dubinsky, Vice-Presidents S. Ninfo, J. Breslau, J. Hochman, in conjunction with Vice-Presidents Amdur and Kramer and other officers and active members of Boston, the membership, true to themselves and their old traditions, began to realize that their only salvation was in the legitimate union and their only hope lies now with the International.

Vice-Presidents Amdur and Kramer appeared before the Committee and explained that the agreements in that city expire on Feb. 15, 1930, and that only an intensive organization campaign preceding a general strike can re-establish the Union.

There are also a large number of unorganized dress shops which threaten to undermine the conditions in the union shops. Your Committee, therefore, recommends the concurrence in these resolutions. We further recommend that immediately upon adjournment of this Convention, the incoming G. E. B. proceed with a vigorous organization campaign and follow up with such measures as the Boston situation may require.

Your Committee received Resolutions Nos. 56 and 59, the Resolves of which read:

#### Resolution No. 56

Introduced by delegation of Local No. 62, New York.

RESOLVED, that the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U., assembled in Cleveland, Ohio, instruct its incoming General Executive Board to institute an organization campaign among the out-of-town shops for the purpose of establishing new locals of ladies' underwear workers and establish union standards for these workers wherever they are employed.

#### Resolution No. 59

Introduced by delegation of Local No. 62, New York.

RESOLVED, that this 20th Biennial Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. decide that



Immediately upon adjournment of the convention the International inaugurate an organization drive among all silk, rayon, muslin underwear, brassieres, corsets and negligee workers in order that these workers may be prepared for a general strike which should be called as soon as possible to the end that all these workers may be brought into the International and their working conditions raised to union standards.

The introducers of this resolution appeared before our committee, and stated that the underwear and white goods industry was of rather large proportions employing in New York between 12 and 15 thousand workers in 350 shops. It was also revealed that Local No. 62, which was at one time a very prosperous organization has been reduced to its present condition because of the various changes that have taken place in the white goods industry and owing to the internal strife in our International.

The conditions in the union shops controlled by Local No. 62 at present are undetermined by the large non-union section of this industry and it requires great effort on the part of the local to hold and maintain union conditions in the organized shops.

The introducers of this resolution further stated that unless an intensive campaign was waged in that industry there is danger that the local will be compelled to cease functioning.

The committee recommends concurrence in this resolution and empowers the General Executive Board immediately after the adjournment of this convention to inaugurate a vigorous campaign to the end of unionizing the white goods industry of New York.

As to Resolution No. 56, your committee recommends that this matter be referred to the incoming General Executive Board and requests that the General Executive Board instruct the out-of-town department to do all in its power to control the out-of-town white goods shops.

Your Committee received Resolution No. 57, the Resolve of which reads:

#### Resolution No. 57

Introduced by Local 67, Toledo, O.

RESOLVED, that the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. heartily approve the decision of Local No. 67 and pledge the full support of the International.

A committee of the Toledo delegation together with Vice-President Charles Kreindler, of Cleveland, appeared before our Committee and stated that if the International would make arrangements with the Cleveland Joint Board to organize Toledo, the task would not be so difficult owing to the fact that a large portion of the workers of Toledo are already organized, and that with a little effort, the market can be completely unionized.

Your Committee recommends the adoption of this resolution and empowers the General Executive Board to make arrangements with the Cleveland Joint Board, for organization and complete unionization of Toledo.

Your Committee received Resolution No. 93, the Resolve of which reads:

#### Resolution No. 93

Introduced by the Cleveland Delegation.

RESOLVED, that this 20th Biennial Convention instruct the incoming General Executive Board, immediately upon adjournment of this Convention, to formulate in conjunction with the Cleveland Joint Board plans for organizing these non-union workers and bringing them into the fold of our International.

The Committee recommends concurrence in this resolution.

Your Committee received Resolutions Nos. 62, 76, 79, the Resolves of which read:

#### Resolution No. 62

Introduced by Local No. 65, Los Angeles.

RESOLVED, that the 20th Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union instruct its General Executive Board to undertake an extensive organization campaign in Los Angeles immediately after adjournment of the convention.

**Resolution No. 76**

Introduced by J. Menckoff, President;  
Benjamin W. Guthertz, Secretary Local  
No. 8, San Francisco.

RESOLVED, first that we congratulate our International and its officers in convention assembled on the splendid progress it has made in reconstructing the organization and in the winning back of our hard-fought for conditions in the Eastern markets, and at the same time pledge our undivided loyalty and allegiance to the cause and welfare of our International, and

Resolved, that the International Ladies, Garment Workers' Union in convention assembled instruct the General Executive Board to give such aid in such manner as its present resources will permit to carry through an intensive campaign for the forty-four five-day week as soon as feasible in the cloak, suit and dress industries in San Francisco.

**Resolution No. 79**

Introduced by Delegate A. Plotkin, San Francisco.

RESOLVED, that the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. instruct the incoming General Executive Board to make an intensive effort to unionize the Pacific Coast and give to the markets on the Pacific Coast such moral and financial aid as is within the immediate power of the International to grant.

The Committee, after listening to Brother Plotkin who represents the Coast, is in sympathy with the spirit expressed in this resolution, and recommends its adoption.

Your Committee received Resolution No. 95, the Resolves of which read:

**Resolution No. 95**

Introduced by B. Gilbert of St. Louis.

RESOLVED, that this 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. after adjournment instruct the G. E. B. to start a general organization campaign in the St. Louis dress market; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this convention gives full power to the incoming General Executive Board to push such a campaign.

The Committee recommends the adoption of this resolution.

Your Committee received Resolution No. 49, the Resolve of which reads:

**Resolution No. 49**

Introduced by Chicago Delegation.

RESOLVED, that the 20th Biennial Convention instruct the incoming General Executive Board, as expeditiously as possible, to start an extensive organization campaign for the purpose of organizing the workers employed in the ladies' garment industry in the above unorganized centers.

In deliberation on this resolution, it was pointed out that a number of Middle Western, Northwestern, and Coast cities, such as Portland, Oregon, Kansas City and Cincinnati, have of late become markets of considerable importance, employing thousands of cloak and dressmakers. The sub-standard conditions prevailing in these markets threaten the conditions established by the International in other organized centers.

The Committee recommends that the G. E. B., at its earliest opportunity, institute an organization campaign in those centers.

Your Committee received Resolutions Nos 46 and 48, the resolves of which read:

**Resolution No. 46**

Introduced by Local No. 35, New York.

RESOLVED, that this Convention instruct the incoming General Executive Board to reorganize the out-of-town department, and a system of its workings be formulated by the General Executive Board, together with the New York Joint Board of the Cloak and Dressmakers' Union.

**Resolution No. 48**

Introduced by Florence Pettie, Local No. 134.

RESOLVED, that this 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. instruct the incoming General Executive Board to re-establish the New Jersey office as it existed prior to 1926 to the end that the unorganized workers in the New Jersey territory may be brought into the fold of the International Union.

These two resolutions, although differently framed deal with the question of the out-of-town department. Although not fully in accord with the wording of Resolution No. 46, the Committee feels that this question has be-

come a very important problem for the New York market, at times threatening the very existence of the conditions obtained in our recent victorious strike of cloakmakers in New York.

Your Committee, therefore, recommends the adoption of these two resolutions.

Your Committee received Resolution No. 78, the Resolves of which read:

**Resolution No. 78**

Introduced by Delegation of Local No. 2, New York.

**RESOLVED**, that the organization work conducted in the suburbs of New York be supervised jointly by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and the Joint Board of the Cloak, Suit, Skirt, Dress and Reefer Makers' Union of New York; and be it further **RESOLVED**, that the said department shall submit weekly reports for the approval of the Joint Board.

In acting upon Resolutions No. 46 and 48, which also deal with the out-of-town problem, your committee feels that it has covered the intention expressed in this resolution as well, and that there is no need to act on it separately.

In conclusion your committee wishes to impress the Convention with the great task which will confront the President, our chief organizer, and the General Executive Board upon the adjournment of this Convention in carrying out the recommendations and decisions adopted by this Convention in connection with organization work. It is a task of tremendous proportions and entails a great deal of energy, work and finances. It is our earnest hope that out of this Convention will come such legislation as will make it possible for our International and our President to enforce these decisions in a manner that will bring the best results for the entire membership of the International.

Respectfully submitted,

Organization Committee,

Vice-President Joseph Breslau,  
Chairman, Local No. 35;  
Vice-President Elias Reisberg,  
Secretary, Local No. 50;  
Abr. Rosenberg, Local No. 2;  
D. Borowitz, Local No. 5;

A. Plotkin, Local No. 8;  
D. Fruhling, Local No. 10;  
Sol Abrams, Local No. 14;  
M. Leventhal, Local No. 17;  
Albert Eaton, Local No. 19;  
Meyer Pollinsky, Local No. 20;  
Joseph Schneider, Local No. 22;  
Thille Creske, Local No. 29;  
Julius Goralnick, Local No. 37;  
Bessie Hurwitz, Local No. 46;  
N. Castrovinci, Local No. 48;  
Harry Rufer, Local No. 59;  
Harry Beim, Local No. 67;  
Marco Durante, Local No. 88.  
Anna Klibanoff, Local No. 100.

**VICE-PRESIDENT AMDUR** urged the Convention to accept the Committee's recommendations bearing upon the resolutions referring to Boston. He pointed out that Boston was at all times ready to help the International and that the rehabilitation of the Boston Union will mean a victory for the Labor Movement in general.

**DELEGATES ABRAHAM SNYDER** and **FANNIE SHAPIRO** (Local 62) spoke on the situation in the white goods and underwear industry and urged the Convention to instruct the General Executive Board in the matter of carrying on a campaign and calling a strike in that industry.

**DELEGATE PLOTKIN** (Los Angeles), explained the situation on the Pacific Coast and pointed out that Chicago was feeling keenly the competition created by unorganized Chinese workers laboring in the cellars of Los Angeles. He urged that the International come to the support of the workers who are trying to establish union conditions in that field.

Mention was made by President Schlesinger of the fact that several resolutions pertaining to organization had not been acted upon by the Committee as they had been submitted too late. However, these resolutions would appear in the proceedings of the Convention on Saturday and will be acted upon by the Committee later on.

President Schlesinger read a telegram

from the Mayor of the City of New York, Mr. James A. Walker, which was received with applause.

New York, N. Y.  
Benjamin Schlesinger, President,  
I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

It is with deep gratification that I received the message of thanks from the Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. I personally have had a real interest in the welfare of the International Ladies' Garment Union and in their struggle for the elimination of the sweat shop and the obnoxious practices which its existence causes not only in our own city but wherever men and women labor for their livelihood, and I send my heartiest congratulations and good wishes for the success of your Convention.

JAMES J. WALKER, Mayor.

Secretary Baroff read telegrams and communications received since the adjournment Thursday afternoon.

New York, N. Y.  
Convention, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

The present Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union may justly be called the renaissance of the Cloakmakers' Union. It is epoch making. The entire labor movement waits with throbbing hearts for your decisions that will mark the turning point in the life of your wonderful organization. We in the Workmen's Circle who always stood with you and extended a helping hand will in this moment continue to co-operate in the work of rejuvenating the forces of the labor movement and build up a strong and powerful International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. May your work be crowned with success and we wish you to lead the working class to a final triumph.

J. BASKIN.

New York, N. Y.  
International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

Officers and delegates, the Millinery Workers' Union, Local 24, sends you its greetings. We are rejoicing in the great progress your International Union has made recently in recruiting the vast majority of ladies' garment workers under your banner and in re-establishing genuine union control in your industry. We wish that this Convention will bring to all the workers of the ladies' garment industry still greater strength, unity and solidarity.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MILLINERY  
WORKERS' UNION, LOCAL 24.  
CLOTH HAT, CAP AND MILLINERY  
WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL  
UNION.

N. SPECTOR, Mgr. A. ROSE, Sec'y-Treas.

Milwaukee, Wis.  
International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:  
Greetings from Milwaukee Socialists and  
best wishes for successful Convention.

DANIEL W. HOAN, Mayor.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:  
Best wishes from the Public Workers' Dress  
Shop.

CHAIRMAN FRIEDMAN.

Stamford, Conn.  
Ladies' Garment Workers' Convention,  
Cleveland, Ohio:  
Congratulations to the 20th Convention of  
the International Ladies' Garment Workers'  
Union. We wish you success.

LOCAL 127 OF STAMFORD, CONN.

Brooklyn, N. Y.  
International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
Convention, Cleveland, Ohio:

Please accept our heartiest congratulations on your recent victories. We hope that as a result of your deliberations the International will be a beacon to the American labor movement, three cheers for a powerful and united International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS,  
LABOR LYCEUM OF BORO PARK.  
CARL CUMMINGS, Managing Director.

New York, N. Y.  
Benjamin Schlesinger, Cleveland, Ohio:  
The Italian Chamber of Labor views with deep satisfaction the revival of your glorious International and rejoices that under your splendid and fearless leadership you are gathering at your 20th Bi-annual Convention to shape the future destinies of the thousands of workers in your industry. May your deliberations and the actions of your officers bring for the spirit of solidarity and good will among the rank and file of the Ladies' Garment Workers throughout the country and place your International in its former position as the vanguard and the beacon light of the American labor movement.

ARTURO GIOVANNITTI,  
LEONARD FRISINA.

Katonah, N. Y.  
International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

Heartiest greetings to 20th Biennial Convention International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and congratulations on steps already taken to rebuild the organization. May the good work go on and the International stand as a bulwark against reaction and a beacon light of progress for the workers of America.

A. J. MUSTE.



New York, N. Y.

Delegates, I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:  
The Cutters of the R. & E. Regulation send  
their sincere greetings to the delegates of  
the 20th Convention of the International.

UNSIGNED.

Pawling, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

Our heartiest congratulations to your or-  
ganization from Maumit School.

NELLIE SEEDS, Director.

New York, N. Y.

Benjamin Schlesinger, President,  
International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

To the President and Delegates of the 20th  
Convention of the International Ladies' Work-  
ers' Union: Accept our heartiest wishes.  
May peace and harmony prevail at your  
gathering and good judgment be used in all  
problems concerning the entire membership  
of the International.

EXECUTIVE BOARD, LOCAL 38.

H. GARNER, Chairman.

J. L. BANACH, Secretary.

New York, N. Y.

Benjamin Schlesinger, President,  
I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Mr. President, I wish to convey through  
you to the delegates of this Convention my  
heartiest greetings. May your deliberations  
bring the results desired by all sincere and  
loyal members of the International. I fer-  
vently hope that you will soon regain your  
health so that you may be able to continue  
your excellent work as the leader of such a  
vast membership.

MISCELLANEOUS DIVISION.

New York, N. Y.

Benjamin Schlesinger, President,  
I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

With particular pleasure and heartfelt joy  
do we greet your present Convention. The  
rejuvenation of your union is not only of sig-  
nificance to the thousands of cloak and dress-  
makers, but is a source of pride and happi-  
ness to the entire labor movement. Your or-  
ganization has always reflected the strength  
and solidarity of the working class and your  
recent achievements have earned the utmost  
admiration of all who have the interests of  
labor at heart. The membership of our  
Union joins with me in wishing your organi-  
zation continued successes in the interests  
of its members. May the decisions of your

Convention be fruitful of immediate practical  
results and may they also be a step in the di-  
rection of the ultimate emancipation of the  
working class.

J. ROBERTS, General Secretary.

Cloth, Hat, Cap & Millinery Workers'  
International Union,

Brooklyn, N. Y.

Benjamin Schlesinger, President,  
I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Wishing you success in your deliberations.

EX-VICE-PRESIDENT SIMON ZLOTCHIN.

New York, N. Y.

Delegates, Public Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio:  
We send greetings to the delegates of the  
20th Convention of the International.

CUTTERS OF AL BENJAMIN,

Chicago, Ill.

I. L. G. W. U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings to the officers and delegates to  
the 20th Biennial Convention which is a ju-  
bilee convention. Accept my heartiest con-  
gratulations on your past victories and my  
conviction that your deliberations will bring  
still greater success for our organization.

SAM WITZ,

Member, Ladies' Tailors' Union, Local 104.

New York, N. Y.

Delegates, Public Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings and trust that all other crafts in  
our industry be organized into a successful  
and strong union.

CUTTERS OF ROSENSTOCK & COHEN,  
OF THE MISCELLANEOUS DIVISION.

New York, N. Y.

20th Biennial Convention, I. L. G. W. U.,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

Best wishes for a successful Convention and  
brighter future for the International.

FAGIE SHAPIRO,  
SADIE REISCH.

New York, N. Y.

Convention, International Ladies' Garment  
Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

The Deborah Jewish Consumptive Relief  
Society sends its greetings to your 20th  
Convention and joins together with all the  
friends of the International in wishing you  
a harmonious and successful Convention.

S. SHAPIRO, President.

New York, N. Y.

Benjamin Schlesinger, President, I. L. G. W.  
U., Cleveland, Ohio:

Personally, and on behalf of the American  
Ort, I send you greetings and heartiest con-

gratulations on the outstanding achievements of the International during the past year. Your Union has always generously shared its prosperity with your suffering brethren and sisters across the sea. The Ort deeply appreciates your concrete plans to co-operate with its constructive program for industrializing the declassèd Jews of Eastern Europe, thereby making them self-supporting and not recipients of charity. More power to you.

HENRY MOSKOWITZ, American Ort,  
Chairman Executive Committee.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 4, 1929.

Mr. Ab. Baroff, Sec.-Treas.,  
Int'l. Ladies' Garment Workers.

It is my sad duty to inform you of the sudden death of James P. Noonan, Fifth Vice-President of the American Federation of Labor, which occurred at Washington, D. C. at 9:30 this morning, resulting from burns received in a fire in his apartment.

The funeral will take place Saturday morning at nine o'clock from his home, 3927 Castleman Avenue, St. Louis, Mo.

Fraternally yours,

FRANK MORRISON,  
Secretary, American Federation of Labor.

#### Resolution No. 105

Introduced by unanimous consent.

WHEREAS, the Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union at Cleveland received a report upon the conditions of the declassèd Jews in Russia, and

WHEREAS, it appears that the solution of the problem of the declassèd Jews lies in vocational training and productive occupation, and

WHEREAS, the Tool Campaign Committee and the Ort are carrying on work to solve the problem of the declassèd in Russia, and

WHEREAS, the traditional policy of the I. L. G. W. U. has always been to stretch out its hand in help to the war stricken and war sufferers and to all those suffering from the aftermath of the war; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Convention wholeheartedly endorse the work of the Tool Campaign Committee and the Ort, and that the incoming G. E. B. is hereby empowered to devise ways and means of furthering the progress of this very useful work.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

#### Resolution No. 106

Introduced with unanimous consent  
by Sol Polakoff and Phillip Kramer.

WHEREAS, there are many shops in the city of Worcester engaged in the manufacture of skirts and dresses which employ a large number of unorganized workers, and

WHEREAS, there also exist a number of unorganized children's dress shops in Worcester, and

WHEREAS, the workers in these shops are laboring under conditions far below union standards accepted in organized markets, thus constituting a danger to these organized markets as well as an injustice to the Worcester workers, and

WHEREAS, there have been many indications of unrest among these Worcester workers; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this 20th convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union instruct the new General Executive Board to appoint an organizer who shall institute an immediate aggressive campaign to organize all the ladies' garment workers in Worcester.

Referred to Committee on Organization.

#### Resolution No. 107

Introduced with unanimous consent by Fannia M. Cohn, Salvatore W. Bagalle, Local No. 51; Marco Durante, Local No. 88; Florence Petti, Local No. 134; Isaac Levy and Charles Carotenuto, Local No. 136; Mary Varden, Local No. 14.

WHEREAS, we succeeded through the efforts of our International to organize local unions in New Jersey towns, such as Passaic, Bayonne, Hackensack, Jersey City, and Plainfield, and improved the conditions of the workers, and,

WHEREAS, there are in those towns thousands of workers still unorganized, who are being ruthlessly exploited by the employers, and

WHEREAS, this prevents the organized workers from further improving their conditions, and

WHEREAS, this condition is detrimental to the workers in New York; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 20th Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, instruct the incoming General Executive Board, to look into this matter and see what can be done to organize all the workers in those towns.

The convention adjourned at 5 P. M. to Saturday 9:30 A. M.

## Sixth Day—Saturday Morning Session

Cleveland, Ohio, December 7, 1929

The Convention was called to order at 10 o'clock by President Schlesinger.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER** introduced the following resolution by unanimous consent:

### Resolution No. 108

WHEREAS, the so-called Communist "papers" of New York have printed libellous charges against our beloved leader and Counsel, Morris Hillquit, in connection with certain sales of stock of the International Union Bank, and

WHEREAS, these transactions were made with the full knowledge and approval of the General Executive Board, and for the benefit of our International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and

WHEREAS, Comrade Morris Hillquit has instituted criminal prosecutions for libel against the so-called "editors" and publishers of these Communist sheets; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in convention assembled to express our utmost and unqualified confidence in the integrity of our counselor and advisor, Comrade Morris Hillquit; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that we urge him to discontinue the prosecution against the Communists, who are so discredited in our movement that no intelligent person attaches any weight to their absurd and ridiculous charges. We are of the opinion that the trial of Comrade Hillquit's libel suit would only serve to infuse a flicker of life into their dying movement and give them an opportunity to enable them to keep alive their army of professional hangers-on.

Referred to Committee on Resolutions.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER** announced that he would have the address of Abraham Cahan, editor of the Forward, printed in full in the publications of the International and possibly also in pamphlet form inasmuch as it was not reported thoroughly in the Forward.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER** introduced Charles W. Cullen, representing the United Hatters of North America,

who impressed upon the delegates the importance of buying head gear bearing a Union label. "That is the only way," he said, "to make sure that it was made by men and women enjoying the conditions for which you are contending."

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** The Cloth Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers' Union was always intimately connected with us and we always considered it a part of our own organization, a part of ourselves. I shall never forget a strike of cloakmakers in New York some years ago. We needed money to finance the strike. One of the organizations I called upon at the time was the Cloth Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers' Union.

Their General Executive Board and officers were in session called especially for that purpose. I went there and the substance of what I said was: "The cloakmakers are in trouble. We need money. We must feed our people. Whatever you have in the treasury we want. We do not care if it is much or little, please open up the safe and give it to us."

They did exactly as I asked them, they simply gave us every penny that their organization had.

I feel gratified to have Brother Zaritsky here because, aside from the fact that he is the President of his organization, he is also personally very intimate with our organization. During the last few years, he stood by us so well that when I think of what he has done I can only think of him with admiration and love.

I take great pleasure in presenting to you Brother Max Zaritsky, President of the Cloth Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers' International Union.

**BROTHER MAX ZARITSKY:** Brother Schlesinger has expressed the sentiments that are now in my heart and in my mind. This is not alone your convention. It is our convention and I want to be considered as one of you.

I am extremely proud and happy to share the sentiment of the membership of our organization with you and to tell you in their name that they share with you your joy just as they have always shared with you in your sorrows. We have always been a part of the great organization, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. The incident recalled by Brother Schlesinger was but one of many. When we did decide at that meeting to turn over every dollar in our possession for the cause of your organization, we did so as members of the same group, as partners in the same work, as participants in the struggles of your great organization.

I attended your last convention in Boston, and I attended the two conventions before that. I sat through those meetings and considered with you the ways and the means of reviving and rebuilding this glorious organization. It is the happiest moment in my life today to be with you and to look at this gathering which is now celebrating the glorious rejuvenation of the wonderful spirit of the old time cloakmakers and dressmakers.

The only possession, the only asset of the labor movement is its loyalty to the cause and its confidence in one another. Those who would undermine that confidence went about it maliciously and ferociously, and it looked as if they had succeeded; it looked as if our organization were going to be destroyed. But those of us who stood in the front ranks of the organization knew differently. We knew that a little more patience, another day, another week, another month, or another year if you please, and our people would be able to rebuild the organization.

Tens of thousands of men and women in our organization and in the labor movement at large have been saved from that destruction. Today we possess and shall continue to possess that great asset of the labor movement, the unquestionable loyalty and devotion of our members to the cause of the labor movement.

We are passing through a severe crisis in Chicago. Hundreds of our members in the newly organized millinery union

are now fighting for the fundamental right which is being denied them by their employers, the right to organize and to deal with them as an organization.

One consolation is that the great labor movement is behind us and with us. I want to tell you that the first to come to the assistance of the struggling millinery workers were none others but your cloakmakers of Chicago who took the initiative in organizing conferences for the financial and moral support of the striking millinery workers. Let me say to you, you who have been in this organization for so many years: thousands of unorganized men and women in Chicago are learning something about the term, "solidarity of labor."

There are about five thousand women in the millinery trade in Chicago who had never heard before of any labor organization, to whom the word "union" was a myth, something unknown, something strange. Now we have a certain percentage of them on strike for the right to work. This spirit of cooperation manifested by the cloakmakers and the other organizations in Chicago has opened the eyes even of the unorganized women of Chicago, and they are learning something about the actual meaning of solidarity in the ranks of labor.

Permit me to pay my personal tribute to that wonderful spirit of those who stood in the front of your ranks, fighting stoically, fighting stubbornly for the reconstruction of the organization. It is a spirit that knows no defeat, that knows no surrender. It is that spirit that has permeated the leadership of your organization and has inspired the tens of thousands of the rank and file. It is that spirit that is responsible for the wonderful reconstruction of the organization. We have ceased to be an organization of propagandists. We have come to be an organization responsible for the very existence of an industry which has to afford a livelihood to our men and women. We have advanced to a stage where we feel that we want to take over responsibility for the industry, and it is in that new direction that we are going today.

My highest tribute to Brother Schlesinger and to those who are with him—



there are so many of them who have taken the reins of the organization at a most critical time and have brought the organization to a point that makes every one of us proud, proud of the activities and of your accomplishments.

It is with deepest pride and pleasure that I say to you, Go on with your wonderful work! March onward, always onward, always forward for the glory and for the success of the labor movement. (Applause.)

Upon motion of Delegate Pankin, seconded by Vice-President Mollie Friedman, the Convention extended its thanks to President Zaritsky for his cordial and spirited message.

Upon question from Vice-President Mollie Friedman as to why the Fancy Leather Goods Workers were not represented, President Schlesinger explained that many of the people who were invited could not come. Abraham Ship-lacoff had been invited, he assured her.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER** stated several new men have joined the Press table. He introduced Brother Weintraub of the Cleveland Forward, Leon Crystal, City Editor of the New York Forward, and Brother Bernstein of St. Louis, who for many years had been Secretary of the Philadelphia Dressmakers' Union and who had done invaluable work there during the big fight of 1914 and 1915. He criticised the New York Forward for the way it had handled the convention news, referring specifically to the report of Abraham Cahan's speech. He also stated that in order to dissipate the wrong impression created by the Forward's handling of the news Comrade Cahan's speech will be printed in pamphlet form so that the garment workers would not retain the wrong impression they must have gained from the Forward reports. He stated this was not a personal matter with him but was shared by many delegates of the convention.

**DELEGATE HELLER**, Secretary of the Resolutions Committee, then continued with the report of the committee:

#### Resolution No. 69

Introduced by Chicago Delegation, the Resolve of which reads:

**RESOLVED**, that the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union assembled at its 20th Biennial Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, instruct the incoming General Executive Board to install week work wherever cloaks are being manufactured.

Week-work in the cloak industry is the expressed policy of our International. Your Committee knows that the week-work system in the cloak industry is established in most all centers. Wherever it does not as yet prevail, there are good and sufficient causes for it.

Your Committee, therefore, finds that it is necessary that the weekwork system be introduced in every centre where cloaks are made.

Your Committee, therefore, recommends that this resolution be referred to the incoming G. E. B. with instructions to do everything in its power to enforce the week-work system in every cloak centre.

This section of the report was adopted after Delegate Kirtzman (local 9) and Delegate Friend (local 26) presented arguments bearing upon the matter of the resolution.

Your Committee has received Resolution No. 88, the Resolve of which reads:

#### Resolution No. 88

Introduced by Delegation of Local No. 2, New York:

**RESOLVED**, that the Twentieth Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. emphasize the necessity that officers who work for the Joint Board shall be paid by that same body which supervises their work and that the locals constituting the Joint Board of New York shall immediately be called upon to make the necessary financial arrangements to execute the above-mentioned recommendations.

While your Committee is not a constituted authority to pass on questions of law, nevertheless, reading the constitutional clause No. 6, Section 3-D, your Committee feels that the present provision does not prohibit an arrangement whereby business agents, after being

elected or appointed by the locals, shall receive pay from the Joint Board.

Your Committee, therefore, recommends that the incoming G. E. B. be instructed to take this matter up with the Joint Board and the locals comprising the Joint Board of the city of New York and adjust this matter to the best interests of the New York organization.

**DELEGATE STUDENT (Local No. 2):** The Committee ought to make the convention go on record as favoring the contents of the resolution, that is, that the Joint Board of New York is the authority over the business agents, and that no business agent should be able to say he is not an officer of the Joint Board but of the Local.

**VICE-PRESIDENT JULIUS HOCHMAN:** If the intention of the introducers of this resolution was as expressed by Brother Student, they should have written the resolution differently. They should have introduced the resolution asking for a constitutional change, which they did not do. They merely asked for a certain arrangement in the New York Joint Board by which the business agent, no matter how elected, shall receive pay from the Joint Board and work under the jurisdiction of the Joint Board.

I personally know that most of the locals and the Joint Board are not opposed to such an arrangement. It is really a matter of adjustment, not of legislation, and, therefore, we recommend, that the General Executive Board assist these locals and the Joint Board in making arrangements with the goodwill of everybody concerned, in order not to create unnecessary issues.

**DELEGATE H. FRIED (Local No. 2):** I merely want to make it clear to the convention that if the business agents were paid by the New York Joint Board, they would be responsible to the New York Joint Board and not to the local. They are not supposed to be responsible to the locals, as the locals are not conducting the business of the Joint Board.

**DELEGATE KAPLAN (Local No. 2):** While having no objection to their tak-

ing up this proposition with all due respect to the present and incoming Board, we know that most of the officers of the New York Joint Board are members of various locals, and it is very hard for them to adjust this matter.

Now the very same officers who work for the Joint Board are being elected and paid by various locals, and they are being paid various wages, with the result that the work of some of them is now up to par.

**DELEGATE NAGLER (Joint Board, New York):** The Joint Board has taken up this question of the officers of the Joint Board and how they should be paid for their services. Practically every local Union within the Joint Board favors the proposition of having the officers paid by the Joint Board. Therefore, I favor the adoption of the recommendations of the Committee.

**VICE-PRESIDENT ANTONINI:** I want to refute Brother Fried's argument that the business agents are loyal only to the party that pays them. This plan of the Joint Board paying the business agent is very old. Some locals think their business agents have to be paid a better wage and they give them extra pay. It is nothing new. We favor the approval of the recommendations of the Committee.

**DELEGATE HELLER (Secretary of the Committee):** I think the report of the Committee on Resolutions is the proper report and should be adopted at this convention. In spite of certain accusations, I never believed that the loyalty of a business agent depended upon his pay envelope.

Delegate Nagler stated that every local is of the opinion that business agents should be paid by the Joint Board. I believe that in order to make an arrangement resulting in harmonious relations, that the local body should make that decision and no compulsion from the convention should be allowed to arbitrarily rule on this matter.

This section of the report was put to a vote and carried.

Your Committee received Resolution No. 35, the Resolve of which reads:

**Resolution No. 35**

Introduced by the Chicago Delegation.

**RESOLVED**, that the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, in its 20th convention assembled, in Cleveland, Ohio, pledge its moral and financial support to this great organization crusade, and instruct its incoming General Executive Board to carry out this mandate.

The heroic struggle of the textile workers in the South deserves the admiration of every organized worker in our country. They are fighting for the elementary rights of free American citizens. They are struggling for the right to be organized, for the right to assemble peacefully without the intervention of the brutal force of the employers' servants. They have aroused the country against the brutal assaults, bloodshed and murder committed against them. The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, having experienced such struggles in the early days of its organization, expresses its fullest sympathy with these pioneers of organized labor in the South.

It is without any hesitancy that your Committee recommends the extension of the fullest support to the campaign of the American Federation of Labor for the emancipation of the textile workers in the South.

Your Committee recommends the adoption of this resolution.

Delegate Heller moved the adoption of the Committee's report.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** You have heard the motion, and I want to say just a word in connection with that resolution. A few days before we left for the convention, we received a communication from President Green, of the American Federation of Labor, in which he told us of the decisions made at that conference which was held in Washington, and to which Vice-President Dublin-sky referred yesterday in his address.

In that communication President Green explained that in his opinion and also

in the opinion of those who participated in the conference, it was necessary that each and every international organization who could afford should have an organizer in the South and this organization work should not be centered on the textile workers alone, but on all trades in the South. In other words, if there are shops of ladies' garment workers in the South, the whole group of organizers would also concentrate their efforts on the ladies' garment shops, and so forth.

He also suggested that we have organizers residing in the South, so that it will not appear as though the East or the North is invading the South, which would be an argument for the Southern exploiters.

At any rate the proposition was accepted by the conference held in Washington, and when I saw President Green yesterday, I told him that immediately after adjournment of the convention in New York, we will make provisions to have him assign some one for us, at the expense of the International. It will be much cheaper, by the way, than having some one from the East.

I mention this to you so that you will know that we are working along the line of helping to organize the workers in the South.

The motion was seconded by Vice-President Ninfo and carried. (Applause.)

Your Committee received Resolution No. 2, the Resolves of which read:

**Resolution No. 2**

**SEPARATE DRESSMAKERS' JOINT BOARD**

Introduced by Dressmakers' Unions, Locals No. 22 and No. 89, New York.

**RESOLVED**, that the 20th biennial Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. hereby approve and sanction the creation of a separate Joint Board in the City of New York comprising all the Local Unions, whose members are engaged in the Dress Industry; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the incoming General Executive Board be hereby authorized and instructed to proceed, in conjunction with



the New York Dress Locals, to organize such a Joint Board as soon after the convention as it deems advisable.

Your Committee, in examining this resolution, desires to offer the following comment:

The Joint Boards of the Cloak and Dressmakers' Union of the city of New York were merged in 1923 on the assumption that such a merger would lead to greater efficiency, economy and a better control of the cloak and dress factories in New York City. Actual facts, however, as observed during the existence of this merged Joint Board, demonstrate the impracticability of the amalgamation of two such large organizations under one management.

It must be remembered that there are about 35,000 workers employed in the cloak industry and about 45,000 workers employed in the dress industry. A combined organization of such a tremendous number of workers is absolutely too large and too varied in character for a proper and detailed management. Experience demonstrated the fact that in spite of our good intentions, the cloakmakers could not be made interested in the problems of the dressmakers in the same manner and in the same degree in which they are interested in their own affairs. This is also applicable to the dressmakers.

We must also remember that there is always a limit to the size of an organization. The human factor is the greatest limitation in this case. It is impossible for one person, no matter how able he may be, to thoroughly acquaint himself with the detailed requirements of two such tremendous industries.

Permit us to impress upon the Convention the problems with which the Joint Board of New York will be confronted in the future. First, a general strike in the dress industry requiring the organization of almost 45,000 unorganized workers; the provision of funds for the conduct of such a strike; the settlement of such a strike, the establishment of proper machinery for the control of the organized shops after the completion of the strike, and second, the problem

with which the cloakmakers are now confronted—the enforcement of the new agreement now in operation.

We have just concluded the general strike of the cloakmakers. The Joint Board of cloak and dressmakers should now be on a peace footing. Time is needed to set up a proper peace machinery so that we concentrate our gains. Yet the Joint Board is already compelled to put itself on a war footing in preparation of the forthcoming general strike in the dress trade.

Now the only way this can be done effectively is by concentrating that responsibility in a dress joint board, organized and equipped to handle these special problems, and these only.

Let us establish such a form of organization in the city of New York for the cloak and dressmakers as will assure us that the problems of each will be properly taken care of. Let us prepare organizations for these two separate industries which will be of natural size, properly flexible and adaptable to the interests of each. There is no fear of any possible jurisdictional disputes in the future.

With these few remarks, your Committee recommends the unanimous adoption of this resolution.

**DELEGATE STOLLER:** After two years of the amalgamation, it was found best to get a separate board for the dressmakers, and I was one of those sponsoring the separate joint board. It is understood that when the time comes a third Joint Board will be instituted. If you decide on that now the Joint Board will consist of two Locals, Dressmakers' Locals No. 22 and No. 89, both strong Locals. The dress cutters never had a separate local and I wouldn't want them to break away, but you must realize that the dress pressers will also have their organization. So, if we have the Joint Board of the two Locals it will not be a joint board at all. I think the resolution does not make specific provisions on what this should be. It should be understood that if we want the dressmakers as a separate Joint Board it



should be composed of at least four Locals."

**DELEGATE STUDENT (Local No. 2):** The way industries are now constituted, members in these different industries change from dresses to cloaks, and from cloak shops to dress shops. I am afraid this would give rise to jurisdictional disputes and I want provision to be made that no transfer be required for a member who wants to work in either industry.

**DELEGATE FRUHLING (Local No. 10):** I would amend that so that the incoming G. E. B. work out plans for putting this recommendation into force to the advantage of all concerned in the industries.

If that is not done this will be a Joint Board without a function.

**VICE-PRESIDENT ANTONINI:** The suggestion made by Delegate Student was already incorporated in the original resolution. I favor the resolution.

Insofar as Delegate Fruhling's amendment is concerned, I want it definitely understood that while the G. E. B. would have the full power to carry through the decision to the best of its ability, the Convention should act definitely and decide in favor of a separate joint board for dressmakers.

I was among those who favored the amalgamation of the former dress and cloak joint boards, but I came to the conclusion that this form of organization is not beneficial. The reason for the amalgamation at that time was to get all the dressmakers as well as cloak-makers into one body, but it was soon discovered that the two acted in concert and came to meetings rarely when industrial questions were concerned, and interested themselves altogether too much with politics.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** Let me tell you in all frankness and fairness, and as one who has been a manager himself in some businesses, that I do not know of any man in our industry or in any other industry who would be

able to manage 5000 or 6000 shops and control them. That is particularly true when you consider that there are two different trades involved, one working by piece and the other under the week-work system.

At present the dressmakers have no shop problems because they are just organizing, but after the strike, which I hope will be successful, they will have problems and I do not know how one joint board could manage the affairs of two such large industries.

The motion to adopt the report in favor of a separate dressmakers' joint board was then unanimously carried amid applause.

Your Committee has received Resolution No. 91, the resolve of which reads:

#### Resolution No. 91

#### NATIONAL BELLAS HESS COMPANY

Introduced by the Delegates of Local No. 35, New York:

**RESOLVED,** that this 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. instruct its incoming General President to take whatever steps he may consider advisable to the end that the National Bellas Hess Company stops dealing with sweat-shops and sub-standard shops.

Your Committee recommends concurrence in this resolution. The Committee's recommendations were adopted.

Your Committee has received Resolution No. 45, the Resolve of which reads:

#### Resolution No. 45

Introduced by Locals No. 20, 24, 54 and 95.

**RESOLVED,** that the incoming General Executive Board of the I. L. G. W. U. be instructed by its 20th convention to take steps to introduce the union label in the raincoat industry.

In view of the fact that practically all our agreements contain clauses dealing with the question of a label and that this matter is at the present time one of the subjects under consideration by the G. E. B., your Committee, therefore, recommends that this resolution be referred to the incoming G. E. B. with instruc-

tions to give due and thorough consideration to the contents of this resolution whenever the question of labels comes up. The Committee's recommendation was adopted.

Your Committee received Resolution No. 90, the resolves of which read:

#### Resolution No. 90

RESOLVED, that this Twentieth Biennial Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. goes on record as fully endorsing our campaign and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Convention instructs and authorizes the General Executive Board to give all the moral and sufficient financial help required in order to successfully conclude the work undertaken by Local 38, and be it further

RESOLVED, that should it be necessary to call a general strike in order to bring about complete unionization of the ladies' tailors and custom dressmakers in the City of New York, this Convention authorizes the General Executive Board to take such action at the opportune time, and be it further

RESOLVED, that a permanent committee of the General Executive Board should be assigned by the incoming General Executive Board to work in conjunction with the representatives of Local 38, in order to achieve the above-mentioned aim, and so bring about organization of one more important branch in the ladies' garment industry.

Local No. 38, the introducer of this resolution, has jurisdiction over the Ladies' Tailors and Custom Dressmakers in the City of New York. In their shops are made the most expensive coats, suits and gowns, ranging from two, three hundred dollars up to thousands of dollars per garment.

This industry has two distinct branches—ladies' tailors and custom dressmakers. The ladies' tailors, who are mostly men, are almost completely organized, have the forty-hour five-day week and at a minimum scale of \$58 a week. The custom dressmakers are mostly girls, working long hours for wages as low as \$17 a week. This condition prevails in a most skilled trade where the employers are making huge profits out of the exploitation of these girls.

Under the direction of the International, a campaign was recently started in this industry. It aroused public inter-

est. A number of outstanding men and women in the city of New York, especially the college youth, joined the picket lines in protest of the deplorable conditions. These demonstrations received wide publicity.

Your Committee is fully in accord with the requests of this resolution and recommends concurrence in same.

The Committee's recommendations were adopted.

#### Pioneer Youth

President Schlesinger at this point introduced Harry Miller Busch of the Department of Social Science, Western Reserve University.

MR. BUSCH: I come to you in the interest of children of the working class, and I speak for the Pioneer Youth Movement. You have had to send your children to other organizations for their training. Some of these organizations were good, some of them indifferent, and some of them decidedly bad. Some of the theories taught there were not the things we wanted to promote. We found an organization that was teaching patriotism calling for assent to what happens to be. The Pioneer Youth movement believes that patriotism consists in making it possible for people to work in accord with one another and develop co-operation and improve the conditions of the people.

Pioneer Youth was one of the first movements I know of to interest people of all classes and races and social conditions, in leisure time activity for children. Your President said, "If you turn over your movement to outside influences, God help you." I would say the same thing about your children. When you turn over the development of the leisure time activity to an outside movement you trust to luck.

It was the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union who first gave its support to our movement in 1926. It generously responded with a gift of \$400. It was the largest gift of any labor Union. In five years our movement has spread from New York to Chi-

cago and from New York south to Baltimore. Our whole purpose is to train children, through leisure time activity, so that they can be useful to themselves and not necessarily useful to people who have an ulterior motive.

From what I have known of the labor movement, both as a member and as an observer, I know that labor is interested in improving not only its own status but the status of the community as well. Pioneer Youth doesn't talk about brotherhood; they live it. They don't talk social responsibility; they practice it. We have in New York a camp operated by Pioneer Youth that takes in boys and girls, black and white, Jewish and Gentile, English and non-English speaking children who, over a period of six or eight weeks, live in harmony and get a view of sympathy which ought to result in their coming into the labor Union with real sympathy.

If you support the Pioneer Youth Clubs and send your children to their camps, you can be assured that they are going to grow up with ideals harmonious with the finest. And so I appeal to you as a founder of the Pioneer Youth Movement and as a member of the teaching profession very much interested in the development of character through leisure time activities, and finally, as a member of a labor union myself, to support this movement with your active sympathy, and if your treasury sees fit, with a financial contribution as you so generously once did. (Applause.)

Upon motion of Delegate N. Hines the Convention decided to endorse the work the Pioneer Youth Movement is doing for the children of the working class and to consider also the request for assistance made by Professor Busch.

**VICE-PRESIDENT HALPERN**, the Chairman of the Committee on International Relations and **DELEGATE KIRZNER**, the Secretary of that Committee, presented their report which was adopted section by section.

**VICE-PRESIDENT WANDER** stated

regarding Palestine that the Italian locals and members had contributed as well. President Schlesinger informed him that that was understood, because the International was one family regardless of what language the members spoke.

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Your Committee on National and International relations fully appreciates the importance of the duties with which it has been charged. Our Union has always stressed the principle that although we are organized as a trade Union, we are a part of the entire labor movement and inseparably linked with the rest of the working class the world over.

Your Committee received no resolutions pertaining to National and International Relations. We therefore confined our work to the report of the General Executive Board. Our work has been divided into two sections, first, National, and second, International relations.

##### I—NATIONAL RELATIONS

On the subject of National Relations, your Committee considered that part of the report of the G. E. B. dealing with its participation in the work of securing financial assistance for the striking miners.

Your Committee is of the opinion that the action of the G. E. B. helped to alleviate, to some extent, the suffering of the miners and we are gratified that the members of our Union responded in such a splendid manner.

##### THE SOUTHERN ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN

Your Committee also wishes to draw the attention of the delegates to the industrial situation in the Southern states and to the activities of the American Federation of Labor in connection therewith. The workers of the South, in particular the textile mill workers, are being subjected to conditions of employment similar to the worst conditions of

the early days of the industrial revolution. Long hours, stretch-out systems, pitifully inadequate wages, a revolting lack of sanitary provisions, company-owned homes and the meanest system of industrial slavery in the South constitute a challenge to the labor movement of the nation. The recent revolts in Elizabethton, Tennessee; in Marlon, North Carolina; Ware Shoals, South Carolina; Greenville, South Carolina; and other places in the South showed that the workers, hitherto looked upon as indifferent, are now ready to organize their forces in modern trade unions. The repression and violence resorted to by the mill owners and public officials, such as the killing of five workers in Marlon and the kidnappings in Elizabethton show the bitter conditions which an organizing campaign will have to contend with.

The American Federation has met the situation with vigor and determination. Your Committee directs the attention of the delegates to a conference held recently in Washington, D.C., called by the American Federation of Labor to inaugurate an organization campaign. Our International Union was represented by Acting President David Dubinsky, who was assigned to this task by President Schlesinger. At this conference, the entire trade union movement of the United States and Canada was represented and pledged support to the organizing campaign in the South. A decision to raise a huge fund for the use of the United Textile workers was reached. In this pledge, our International was, of course, happy to join.

The great Southern organization campaign is of interest and importance not to the textile workers alone, but to all of organized labor. In conferences with President Schlesinger during the last few days, President Green of the American Federation of Labor has stated that the efforts of the special corps of organizers in the South will not be limited to the textile mills. The American Federation of Labor, President Green has informed President Schlesinger, will fight to organize every industry of the South, including the ladies' garment industries

which are growing in the Southern states.

Your Committee recommends that the delegates voice their enthusiastic endorsement of the campaign and the steps taken at the special Washington conference. We recommend that our officers be instructed to give this campaign every possible support, morally and financially.

#### OUTSIDE AID TO THE LAST GENERAL STRIKE

Your Committee considered the report of the General Executive Board dealing with the assistance given our Union during the strike of the cloakmakers in New York, not only from our own locals but from the entire labor movement.

Your Committee is certain that the members of our International deeply appreciate the assistance rendered our Union by the American Federation of Labor, and that this Convention will, in an appropriate manner, express its thanks and appreciation to the leadership of the American Federation of Labor for their invaluable assistance to the International during the period of the strike.

Your Committee also feels that due recognition and appreciation should be extended to all other organizations which have assisted the International during the strike. We mention only a few of these organizations: The Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, International Cloth Hat and Capmakers' Union, Workmen's Circle, Poale Zion, Bakers' Union, the United Hebrew Trades, the Hebrew Typographical Union of New York City, the Forward Association.

Your Committee is proud of the fact that the relations of our Union with the rest of the American Labor Movement are of such an intimate nature that when we found ourselves at a point when our existence was endangered, the general labor movement rushed to our assistance. We feel sure that the incoming General Executive Board will do all in its power to further cement our bond with the rest of the labor movement in America.



### THE BOND ISSUE

Your Committee feels that this Convention should give due recognition to the action of President Schlesinger in inaugurating the bond issue, which made the reconstruction of our International possible. The bond issue was something unique in the life of our organization and it was due to the energy and enterprise of President Schlesinger, Acting President Dublnsky, together with the members of the G. E. B. and all officers of our Union that it resulted in a complete success.

Your Committee wishes to call particular attention of the delegates to the inspiring response made to our bond issue by the Hebrew Typographical Union of New York City. The Hebrew Typographical Union has a membership of 200 printers, yet when our International decided to float a bond issue, this small union responded to an extent altogether out of proportion to its membership in subscribing to the purchase of \$10,000 worth of bonds. This act was a demonstration of trade union solidarity which, in the belief of your Committee, deserves the warmest thanks of this convention.

The successful floating of the bond issue demonstrated in unmistakable terms, the confidence and esteem in which our officers and organization are held. The response of our own members and the labor movement in general was magnificent. Your committee feels that the great victory of our Union was due largely to the bond issue.

### II—INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

#### The International Clothing Workers' Federation

In considering the International relations of our union, your Committee was gratified to learn of the continuation of close contacts between our International and the International Clothing Workers' Federation. During the last eighteen months the Federation has continually corresponded with our union, asking to be informed of the conditions of our workers and of the progress of our Union in its struggle with the employers. Every

effort of the Union has been followed by the Federation with sympathetic attention and understanding.

When President Schlesinger visited in Europe this fall, the Secretary of the Federation, Brother Van Der Heeg, made a trip to Paris to confer with him on the present conditions in our Union and our industry. Among other important matters, President Schlesinger and Secretary Van Der Heeg discussed the financial obligations of our Union toward the Federation. Our International has been in arrears in dues payment to the International for several years. As a result of the Paris conference, and through the generous spirit displayed by the Federation, an agreement was reached whereby the International paid into the treasury of the Federation the sum of \$1,000 in return for which our debts to the Federation were completely canceled.

Your Committee firmly believes that these cordial international relations should be continued and enlarged and recommends that our International be represented at the next congress of the Federation by a delegate from our union. President Schlesinger's extensive acquaintance with the clothing industries of the continent, coupled with his expert knowledge of our own situation, makes it desirable that he attend this International Congress if he finds it possible. This congress will be of sufficient importance to justify our being represented by our highest officer.

#### The German Clothing Workers' Union

Your Committee desires to draw the attention of the convention to the sterling evidence of fraternity and solidarity, without parallel in the history of our International, given by the German Clothing Workers' Union during the general strike in New York City. As is well known, the German Clothing Workers' Union is not without its own serious problems, requiring moral and financial resources. Yet, when our International was in need, the German Clothing Workers' Union cabled a check of \$5,000 towards the prosecution of the New York strike. The Committee cannot find words in praise of this act. It is our hope

H. Newman, Local No. 12, that should we be called upon in the future, we will be able to reciprocate many times over this brotherly action. Your Committee recommends that we send a cablegram of thanks to the German Clothing Workers' Union so that the German clothing workers may understand how warmly we appreciate their action.

#### The Palestine Relief Fund

We also wish the delegates to recognize the noble action of the Histadruth of Palestine in coming to our assistance with a check of \$200. When we realize the struggle of the Palestine workers to maintain their organization, we can see the magnificence of their action. We feel sure that the Convention will express its thanks and appreciation to our brothers in Palestine for their timely and fraternal aid in our struggle.

When in September, 1929, the tragic news of the pogroms in Palestine reached the outside world, our International was the first trade Union in America to come to the assistance of these victims of ignorance and fanaticism. The International immediately forwarded the sum of \$5,000 for the relief of Palestine and also sent a call to our Locals to organize collections and give generously to the Palestine pogrom victims.

Your Committee highly recommends the action of the G. E. B. in helping the Palestine victims.

In conclusion, your Committee is pleased that our Union observed the first of May as an International Labor Day, and we are of the opinion that the splendid May Day demonstration of 1929 aided greatly in strengthening the ranks of our International Union.

Respectfully submitted,

#### COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

J. Halpern, Chairman,  
Local No. 41,

A. Kirzner, Secretary,  
Toronto Joint Board.

A. Abramson, Local No. 2,  
N. Liss, Local No. 9,

Ph. Dinnerstein, Local No. 22,  
Morris Rosenthal, Local No. 24,  
Thille Colkins, Local No. 29,  
Raphael Vitullo, Local No. 38,  
Ralph Donato, Local No. 47,  
Mary Levine, Local No. 50,  
Henry Silverman, Local No. 56,  
Rose Grad, Local No. 62,  
B. Israel, Local No. 71,  
Santo Aversano, Local No. 89,  
Sam Kraisman, Local No. 92,  
Chas. Carotenuto, Local No. 136.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Baltimore, Md.

Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

Be greeted, delegates assembled to the Twentieth Convention. May your deliberations bring about a complete consolidation in our ranks and in every city where ladies' garments are manufactured. We expect that the resolution of the Baltimore Cloakmakers' local will be adopted and carried out in the very near future.

MORRIS L. POLIN,

Member Local 40,

Manager Jewish Daily Forward.

New York, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Convention, Cleveland, Ohio:

Accept our best greetings for a successful convention. May your deliberations bring very fruitful results to your entire membership.

Naturalization Aid League of New York City,  
BENJAMIN FISHWASSER, Chairman.

Mr. A. Baroff, Secretary, I. L. G. W. U.,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

We have learned with gratification of the unanimous decision of the convention to call a general strike of the dressmakers of New York. This decision, which tends to eradicate the intolerable conditions under which the dressmakers are toiling, and the abolition of the sweatshop system will be remembered as one of the greatest our International ever made. To the dressmakers it sounded like a clarion call to break the chains of slavery. We are especially pleased to learn that this was the very first decision made. This showed that the alleviation of the sufferings of the dressmakers is uppermost in the thoughts of the officers and delegates of this convention. Your great en-

thusiasm on the adoption of this resolution brought joy into the hearts of the dressmakers. The Executive Board in the name of our members, as well as the dressmakers out of our folds, take this opportunity to express its appreciation and thanks to our beloved President Schlesinger, the General Executive Board and the delegates to the convention for this decision. We also wish to express our thanks to Mr. Emil Schlesinger for his untiring efforts to oust the usurpers from the building of the dressmakers on Twenty-first street.

EXECUTIVE BOARD,  
Dressmakers' Union Local No. 22,  
I. L. G. W. U.

Chicago, Ill.  
20th Biennial Convention, I. L. G. W. U.,  
Cleveland, Ohio;

Accept our heartiest congratulations for the glorious achievements. During the past year you have succeeded in rebuilding the cloak industry and may you in your deliberations find ways and means of how to elevate the conditions of the dressmakers in Chicago. Regards to our delegates.

EMPLOYEES OF HYMAN BROS., Chicago.  
J. Hoffman, B. Schaffer, Kather Rosenfeld,  
Committee.

The convention adjourned at 1 P.M. to  
Monday at 9:30 A.M.

## Sixth Day—Monday Morning Session

Cleveland, Ohio, December 7, 1929

The convention was called to order at 10 o'clock by President Schlesinger.

SECRETARY BAROFF read a number of telegrams, which are printed in full further on.

PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER called upon the Committee on Resolutions to report.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

VICE-PRESIDENT HOCHMAN: Your Committee received Resolution No. 108 which reads:

Introduced by Benjamin Schlesinger by unanimous consent of the Convention.

WHEREAS, the so-called Communist "papers" of New York have printed libellous charges against our beloved leader and Counsel Morris Hillquit, in connection with certain sales of stock of the International Union Bank, and

WHEREAS, these transactions were made with the full knowledge and approval of the General Executive Board, and for the benefit of our International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and

WHEREAS, Comrade Morris Hillquit has instituted criminal prosecution for libel against the so-called "editors" and publishers of these Communist sheets; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in convention assembled to express our utmost and unquali-

fied confidence in the integrity of our counselor and advisor, Comrade Morris Hillquit; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that we urge him to discontinue the prosecution against the Communists, who are so discredited in our movement that no intelligent person attaches any weight to their absurd and ridiculous charges. We are of the opinion that the trial of Comrade Hillquit's libel suit would only serve to infuse a flicker of life into their dying movement and give them an opportunity to start out making collections of money to enable them to keep alive their army of professional hangers-on.

Your Committee is fully in accord with the resolves of this resolution, and recommends concurrence.

This was unanimously adopted by the Convention.

Your Committee received Resolution No. 104, the Resolve of which reads:

### Resolution No. 104

Introduced by Leon Hattab, Local No. 66, New York:

RESOLVED, that this convention respectfully petition President Hoover of the United States to take the necessary steps to place all government employees on the five-day week thereby enabling all forward looking industries to emulate his example.

Our International was among the first organizations to introduce the five-day forty-hour week for the workers of our industry. We strongly urge the univer-



sal extension of the five-day forty-hour week.

Your Committee, therefore, recommends that the incoming G. E. B. should make every effort to help movements carried on and endorsed by the A. F. of L. for the introduction of the five-day forty-hour week, including that of the government employees.

This was approved by the delegates.

#### Resolution No. 32

Introduced by the Chicago Delegation, the Resolve of which reads:

RESOLVED, that the 20th convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union assembled in Cleveland, Ohio, condemn the imprisonment of the Russian political prisoners and calls upon the Russian government to open the jail doors for them immediately.

In connection with this resolution, your Committee received a letter from the Relief Society for Socialist Prisoners and Exiles in Soviet Russia, which appears in the form of a Resolution marked as No. 98.

#### Resolution No. 98

Letter from Relief Society for Socialist Prisoners and Exiles in Soviet Russia:

December 2, 1929.

To the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in Convention at Cleveland:

The Relief Society for Socialist Prisoners and Exiles in Soviet Russia sends you most hearty greetings. We congratulate you on your victory over the dark forces which threatened the solidarity of the workers. We wish you success in your struggle for industrial democracy. May your work proceed uninterrupted until you will have reached your objective which is the complete emancipation of the workers.

Comrades and friends, you know what an arduous task it is to fight for freedom, for the welfare of the proletariat. You are likewise aware how much more difficult has been the struggle of our comrades in Russia. Their fight against the dark forces was a long and dangerous one. For their faith in socialism, in the true liberation of the toiling masses, they are now being exiled and imprisoned and tortured. Yet they continue their heroic fight. And they will win. We appeal to you to help us feed and clothe these courageous fighters. Your help will not

merely keep them from going hungry, it will help to sustain them spiritually. Our comrades in Russia know that you have always been ready to help, that you have made their struggle for freedom your own. They are extremely grateful to you for what you have already done.

Remember us during your present rejoicing over your victory. Our comrades need our help more than they ever did. The present economic crisis in Soviet Russia makes the lot of the Socialist prisoners and exiles worse than heretofore. Help us feed them. There are thousands of hungry and naked souls fighting with their last breath for freedom. Help us feed them.

THE COMMITTEE.

By Manya G. Strunsky.

The Relief Society for Socialist Prisoners and Exiles in Soviet Russia addresses this appeal for aid to all friends and sympathizers. The need of aid is urgent and immediate. The number of prisoners and exiles in Soviet Russia runs into tens of thousands. In Solovki Island and Kem alone there are more than 45,000. The prisons of Leningrad (Petrograd) and Moscow are filled beyond their capacity. The conditions under which the prisoners live are so terrible that many of them seek relief in suicide. The situation of the exiles is no better. The Soviet Government forbids them to seek any work and thereby condemns them to extinction.

In its recent appeal to the workers of the world the Socialist and Labor Internationale confirms the fact that "thousands of Socialists are being arrested and exiled in Soviet Russia without trial or preliminary investigation, while the same is true even of Communists if they fail to agree with their government and venture to express opinions of their own."

"These victims of Chekist terror," says the Internationale, "must eke out a miserable existence on an allowance of \$3.25 a month."

In this connection it should be kept in mind that even this miserable "allowance" is not paid out regularly.

The central organ of the Russian Social Democratic Labor Party, "The Socialist Vlastnik" reports that tortures have again been introduced in the dungeons of the G. P. U. "To compel them to give desired evidence, prisoners are led out to execution and have the black hoods of death placed over their heads as a means of forcing 'confessions'. Those examined are beaten up and placed in cells. Deprived of clothing they are left on bare floors, and twice daily cold water is poured over them. The number of suicides is growing."

These are the conditions under which the struggle for the freedom and welfare of the people, for the ideals of the Russian revolu-



tionary movement, is now being waged in Russia.

The new economic crisis in Russia has brought new privations for the political prisoners and exiles. They can expect little help from their friends and relatives. Their only hope of aid is from outside.

Russian Socialists are fighting for a free, democratic Russia. For this great cause they are sacrificing their all, even their lives. Would the friends of Russian freedom fail to respond to the calls for help coming from the prisoners and places of exile of Russia?

Contribute and get donations from others. Send your contributions immediately, for the need is great and time does not wait.

Make checks payable to the Relief Society and mail them to Mrs. F. Baranoff, Treasurer, 9 West 110th Street, New York City.

All funds are distributed through Socialist Parties of Russia among all prisoners and exiles, regardless of party affiliations.

#### THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Your Committee recommends concurrence in Resolution No. 32 and reference of Resolution No. 98 to the incoming G. E. B. with instructions that it do all in its power in the direction of the final release of political prisoners in Soviet Russia, and also recommends that this movement be aided financially.

Your Committee has received Resolution No. 89, the Resolve of which reads:

#### Resolution No. 89

Introduced by Louis Reiff, of Local No. 35; Abraham Snyder, of Local No. 62; Louis Pankin, of Local No. 10.

RESOLVED, that the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union assembled at this Convention, decide to contribute \$500.00 towards the Rand School of Social Science; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this Convention recommend to the locals of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union to assist the Rand School of Social Science morally and financially to enable it to continue its future activity of enrolling more members of our organization in their educational courses.

Your Committee recommends the adoption of this resolution, referring the matter of financial support to the incoming G. E. B.

Adopted by the Convention.

Your Committee received Resolution No. 27, the Resolve of which reads:

#### Resolution No. 27

Introduced by Local No. 9, New York:

RESOLVED, that all those who will return to the Organization on or before the first day of January in the year of 1930, and against whom there are no charges of scabbing, shall be granted membership with the rights and privileges of all other members of the Union.

Your Committee calls the attention of this Convention to the proclamations issued by the G. E. B. to the cloakmakers of the City of New York, on December 12th 1928, and in June, 1929, calling them to join the Union under the conditions requested in this resolution.

It is now six months since the second proclamation has been issued. We have since gone through a general strike in the City of New York. We doubt whether there are today any cloakmakers, who desired to join the Union and who have not taken advantage of these proclamations.

However, if there are any cloak locals in the New York Joint Board, which believe that the re-issuance of such a proclamation would help to strengthen the locals and draw in additional members your Committee recommends that the incoming G. E. B. be empowered to permit such Local to issue such proclamation.

It is, however, to be understood that this is not applicable to the dress locals, which are now on the eve of a General Strike.

Your Committee recommends that insofar as the dress locals are concerned, the incoming G. E. B. be empowered to issue a general proclamation to all dressmakers in the City of New York to join the Union with the privileges of old members and under such conditions as the G. E. B. shall prescribe.

The motion to approve the recommendation of the Committee was carried.

Your Committee received Resolution No. 30, the Resolve of which reads:

## Resolution No. 30

## CHARTER OF LOCAL NO. 2

Introduced by Local No. 2, New York:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. held at Cleveland, Ohio, to change the charter of Local No. 2, so that it will be known in the future as the CLOAK AND SUIT OPERATORS UNION Local No. 1 with all the rights and privileges existing prior to the revocation of Local No. 1's charter in 1921.

In view of the fact that delegates of Local No. 2 appeared before your Committee, some favoring and some opposing this resolution, your Committee decided to refer the matter to the incoming G. E. B.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** The Communists have organized scab agencies with locals named as we have named ours. I think it would be very wise to let the local change its name. That does not mean I am opposed to the report of the Committee; I am in favor of it. I merely want to say to those of Local No. 2 who are against it that they ought to be for it.

The recommendation of the Committee was adopted.

Your Committee received Resolution No. 26, the Resolve of which reads:

## Resolution No. 26

Introduced by Local No. 9, New York.

RESOLVED, that no member of the Union shall be expelled from the organization for his or her opinion and conviction.

Your Committee called a hearing on this resolution which was attended by delegates of Local No. 9. We gathered that the intention of this resolution was to make clear the position of the Union on the question of expulsion of members for their opinions and convictions.

Your Committee does not feel that the policy of the International ever was, nor is today, to expel members from the Union for opinions and convictions. Our Union is a trade union, organized for the purpose of improving work-conditions of all the workers in our indus-

tries. There never were, nor will there ever be, discriminations for opinions and convictions. We call the attention of this Convention specifically to the manifesto issued by the G. E. B. to the cloak and dressmakers of New York on December 12, 1928, which provides: "1—To reinstate with full membership rights all former members who obligate themselves to adhere to the constitution of the Union and not to act in the Union under orders of outside organizations. No worker shall be barred on account of his political opinions or past dissensions."

With this explanation your Committee recommends the adoption of the declaration of the Committee.

**DELEGATE N. KIRTZMAN** (Local No. 9): We made a correction of this resolution but the Committee has presented the original without the correction. There is an element in the Union that is under the impression that some members, joint boards, or locals were expelled for political convictions. The Committee states that no members were ever expelled for political views or convictions. It should include this provision, that no local, joint board, or member was ever expelled for political opinions or convictions.

**VICE-PRESIDENT BRESLAU:** The resolution reads that the convention shall decide that in the future there should be no expulsion policy. The Committee says that in the past members have never been expelled. How does it concur in this resolution?

**VICE PRESIDENT HOCHMAN:** I would like, if possible, to place this on record without any particular action. It is rather an explanation on the part of the Committee of the position of the Union than a recommendation.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** The resolution is that a member of the Union shall not be expelled from the organization for his or her opinions and convictions. That means a member—surely not a local, nor a joint board. Anyone who would think that a member may

not be expelled but that a joint board may, is weak-minded. The resolution calls that no member be expelled from the Union because of his political opinions. The Committee acts and states that no member has been expelled because of his political opinion, but because he was a scab or acted as a scab. I mean in the sense of trying to undermine the Union.

**VICE-PRESIDENT NINHO:** I would like to ask whether this recommendation and declaration of the Committee includes individuals who come over with the idea of belonging to a certain political organization, and who belong to a dual union.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** You understand that no one can belong to dual organizations. It says, one who has obligated himself to adhere to our organization, no matter what his political beliefs are, can be a member of our organization. One who belongs to a dual union, does not obligate himself to our organization. How then can he be a member?

The motion was then put to a vote and carried.

Your Committee received a resolution dealing with the manufacture of underwear in the Philippine Island and Porto Rico and calling for an investigation to be made by the American Federation of Labor. The resolution reads:

**On Importation of Cheaply Manufactured Underwear**

WHEREAS, millions of dollars worth of ladies' underwear is brought into the United States yearly from the Philippine Islands and Porto Rico where the workers are exploited by American manufacturers and are paid from 20 to 25 cents per day, and

WHEREAS, this merchandise is being sold in leading stores of the United States for a much lower price than American-made merchandise can be sold; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** that the delegates of the I. L. G. W. U. to the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor present a resolution requesting a Federal investigation with a view to placing a duty upon all

ready-made underwear brought into the country.

**LOCAL NO. 62, NEW YORK.**

FANNIE SHAPIRO, No. 62.

ROSE GRAD, No. 62.

FANNIE BRAMER, No. 62.

ABRAHAM SNYDER, No. 62.

Your Committee found it difficult to obtain the necessary information upon which to base a recommendation to this Convention. Your Committee therefore recommends that the entire matter be referred to the incoming G. E. B. to study this condition and be empowered to instruct the delegates to the next convention of the A. F. of L. to make such recommendations to the Convention as the G. E. B. will find necessary.

This was adopted and the report continued.

Your Committee received Resolution No. 102 which reads:

**Resolution No. 102**

**TELEGRAM**

December 3, 1920.

Benjamin Schlessinger, President International Garment Workers' Union Convention, Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings: Your organization and ours have in the last two and one-half years borne the brunt of a ruthless and destructive enemy who was finally destroyed through the many sacrifices made by our members. Due to their loyalty and devotion, they have emerged victorious. Our great task now is the rebuilding and reconstruction of our unions.

The fur workers appreciate the co-operation of your organization which has played an important part and helped us a great deal in our most critical moments. We have learned our lesson and the value of co-operation. May we therefore take the liberty of suggesting to your convention that some plan be devised for the formation of some unit whereby both organizations may co-operate in the rebuilding of our unions? Permit me in behalf of the 10,000 fur workers of New York City to extend to you our heartiest congratulations and our sincere wish that the deliberations of your convention will be entirely successful.

**FURRIERS JOINT COUNCIL, OF N. Y.**

Chas. Stetsky, Manager.

Since your Committee finds no specific request upon which to act, except a

suggestion "that some plan be devised for the formation of some unit whereby both organizations may co-operate in the rebuilding of our Unions," your committee recommends that this matter be referred with full power to the incoming G. E. B.

This was adopted by the Convention.

Your Committee received Resolution No. 29, the Resolve of which reads:

#### Resolution No. 29

#### ASSISTANCE FOR AGED PIONEERS

RESOLVED, in order to do justice to our needy pioneers and to encourage our younger members to loyal service to the International, that this 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. instruct the incoming General Executive Board to employ for its organization work such of our aged pioneers as are still capable of rendering such services; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the incoming G. E. B. be instructed to make provisions for those who are physically incapable of further work by appropriating to them a weekly allowance which will make their path easier.

Your Committee is fully in accord with the request presented in this resolution on behalf of men who have served our movement and who, because of old age, are either unable to give full service to our Union or are unable to work and find themselves in need.

We believe that our Union owes it to these men and to itself to find ways and means to alleviate this condition. Since the adoption of this resolution would necessitate definite rules and regulations with regard to the manner and conditions under which such aid should be extended; also the establishing of a special fund to be used for such purpose exclusively, your Committee, in approving this resolution, recommends that this matter be referred to the incoming G. E. B. with instructions to formulate a plan and a budget, and find ways and means of raising the necessary funds. Such plan to be submitted to the various locals for approval.

Adopted by the Convention.

Your Committee received Resolution No. 33, the Resolve of which reads:

#### Resolution No. 33

Introduced by the delegation of Local No. 35, New York.

RESOLVED, that since the operation of the pressing machine by one man is depriving on the average of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  regular pressers by hand of employment, and since the pressing machine is impairing the health of the presser, that this Convention instruct the incoming General Executive Board that wherever a new agreement is negotiated and the pressing machine is involved, a schedule of a 20-hour working week be inaugurated for that particular craft and the wages for the machine presser to be adopted in accordance with the wage of the average presser.

Your Committee fully appreciates the hardships that the introduction of machinery, especially in its latest developed stage, brings to the members of our Pressers' Union in New York. It was pointed out to your Committee by the representatives of Local No. 35, that the agreement signed by the Communists, after the general strike of 1926 and the disorganization of the industry which followed, stimulated the spread of machines in the cloak industry to an extent that was not possible before. This, in turn, caused the loss of employment to a large portion of the members of Local No. 35. In addition to this, it was pointed out to your Committee that the machine imposes hardships upon the pressers such as sectionalization, and affects adversely the health of those who operate them.

Your Committee feels that our International should establish a definite policy to ameliorate the present condition.

Your Committee, therefore, recommends that the incoming G. E. B. be instructed to make a thorough survey of the situation and work out a definite plan and policy and proceed to put such policy into effect. In the formulation of such a policy your Committee recommends that the reduction of hours for machine pressers be taken into consideration.

Adopted by the Convention.

Your Committee received Resolution No. 34, the Resolves of which read:



## Resolution No. 34

Introduced by the delegation of Local No. 59, Chicago.

RESOLVED, that this 20th Biennial Convention, appoint a committee representative of the various centers and branches of the trade directly involved in and suffering from the introduction of such machinery; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this committee shall immediately proceed to study and find a workable solution of the grave problem which has already affected a great number of our membership.

In connection with this resolution, representatives of Finishers Local No. 59 of Chicago and Finishers' Local No. 9 of New York appeared before your Committee and described the hardships that the introduction of the tacking, felling and edge-basting machinery bring to our members. Your Committee feels that our International should establish a definite policy—to ameliorate this condition.

Your Committee therefore recommends that the incoming G. E. B. be instructed to make a thorough survey of the situation and work out a definite plan and policy and to proceed to put such policy into effect.

Adopted by the Convention.

Your Committee received Resolutions Nos. 101 and 103, messages from the Ex-Patients' Tubercular Home, the Los Angeles Sanatorium and a resolution from the Deborah Jewish Consumptive Relief Society. The resolutions read:

## Resolution No. 103

## TELEGRAM

New York, N. Y., December 3, 1920.

B. Schlesinger, President International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, 20th Convention, Cleveland, Ohio:

We appeal to you as to an ardent friend of our institution and as an intimate friend of our late lamented Doctor Spivak to use your great office in lending your influence to the end that our institution receive its full share of justice at the hands of your committee assigned to deliberate upon the merits of the various institutions in receiving the generosity of your organization. We have not sent any representatives to your

convention and we plead with you to be the advocate of the three hundred and fifty sufferers who find a haven of relief in our institution which is the largest of its kind in the world.

HENRY ROSEN, Executive Director.  
Jewish Consumptives Relief Society of  
Denver, Colo.

## Resolution No. 101

Letter from the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society of America (Hias), 425-7 Lafayette St., New York:

December 2, 1920.

Mr. Abraham Baroff,  
Convention of the International  
Ladies' Garment Workers' Union,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

Dear Mr. Baroff:

Being unable to be represented at your Convention, we take the opportunity to write to you and to appeal to your Convention to take into consideration the very bad conditions existing in Eastern Europe which force our brothers to leave their native lands and to look for new places in which to establish themselves. Only a comparatively small number of these wanderers are allowed to enter the United States. But what about the greater number that are locked out? What shall be done to help them? We have no moral right to ignore their plight.

Hias which well knows the warm attitude of the American Jews towards their brothers in Europe and feels confident of their support, has established branches in a number of countries, such as Cuba, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, South Africa and Australia, where our people are able to enter and which hold out good prospects for them. These branches maintain information and employment bureaus and loan offices. Hias is doing everything in its power to help the Jewish immigrants and to relieve their hardships enroute and after their arrival.

In order to be able to continue this tremendous task, we now come to you for help, and earnestly ask your committee meeting on social problems to consider also the problem of Jewish immigration in conjunction with Hias activities.

Heartily wishing you success in all your plans and undertakings, we are,

Very sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM HERMAN,  
President.

Resolution introduced by delegates of Local No. 2, New York.

WHEREAS, the Deborah Jewish Consumptive Relief Sanatorium is an institution cre-

ated for the relief of those unfortunates, who are afflicted with the horrible disease known as tuberculosis, and

WHEREAS, many such unfortunates, including a number of our own members are being given the necessary relief and treatment at said institution; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this 20th Biennial Convention instruct the incoming General Executive Board to continue the moral and financial support, which this institution received in the past from our International Union and its affiliated Locals.

ALEX STUDENT, Local No. 2.  
ISRAEL FEINBERG, Local No. 2.  
BENJ. MOSER, Local No. 2.  
NATHAN HINES, Local No. 2.  
BERNARD GOLLOB, Local No. 2.  
RULIN ZUCKERMAN.  
H. FRIED.  
A. ABRAMSON.  
BENJAMIN KAPLAN, Local 2.

New York, N. Y.

Convention International Ladies' Garment Workers, Cleveland, Ohio:

Board of directors' ex-Patients' Tubercular Home of Denver will greatly appreciate your kindness in transmitting to Convention greetings and best wishes, particularly on behalf of patients coming from International. Extend thanks for moral and financial assistance previously rendered and ask for same in future, gratefully.

J. BARKIN, Chairman  
M. FEINSTONE, Secretary  
R. SCHWARTZ, Manager

Your Committee expresses its sympathy with the humane work carried on by the above-mentioned institutions. It endorses their organizations, their methods and policies and commends them to the great membership of our International.

With reference to their requests for financial assistance, your Committee recommends that they be referred to the incoming G. E. B. which shall be empowered to allot the proper amount of money for the assistance of each of the above-named institutions.

The motion to adopt this recommendation was carried.

#### Women's Trade Union League

Your Committee, at this time, desires to call the attention of this Convention

to the splendid co-operation extended to our Union by the Women's Trade Union League.

In the City of New York the Women's Trade Union League has always given our Union its fullest co-operation and assistance. In the present dress campaign the Women's Trade Union League, through its president, Rose Schneiderman, was kind enough to assign Sister Sadie Reisch, one of its ablest organizers. Sadie Reisch is a member of Local No. 22, was a worker in our industry and an able officer of our Union for many years. Her participation in our present dress campaign is of great help.

Your Committee hereby expresses its appreciation to the National Women's Trade Union League, to its president, Rose Schneiderman and to Sister Sadie Reisch for their kind assistance. Your Committee recommends that the incoming G. E. B. continue to give moral and financial support to this organization.

Carried with applause.

A letter from the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters was referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

#### Resolution No. 99

A letter from the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, 239 West 136th St., New York, N. Y. Affiliated with the American Federation of Labor No. 18068:

December 2, 1929.

Dear Brothers:

Greetings and felicitations upon your great achievement in rebuilding your movement into a powerful organization. You have fought with dogged and relentless determination and your struggle is being crowned with success and victory.

The Sleeping Car Porters who, too, have been the victims of indescribable persecution and oppression, are valiantly raising their heads, standing erect with their eyes upon the star of a new day of industrial freedom and justice. They are marching forward. We are opposed by one of the most powerful monarchs of American industry, the Pullman Company. This is the same company which imprisoned Eugene Victor Debs in the railway strike of '91. This is the Company which collects a toll of \$7,000,000 per year in tips from the public, which enables it to pay starvation wages to the por-

ters and maids. Not only are they paid but \$77.50 per month as a wage, but are required to labor nearly 400 hours per month with only three hours' sleep a night. Perhaps and perhaps not. There are thousands of extra porters who do not make \$77.50 per month since they are only paid according to the time they actually put in in road service; and thousands of porters do not make a month in road service; and they, therefore, are not paid a month's wage.

The Pullman Company has set up a Company Union known as the Employee Representation Plan and has employed all forms of coercion and intimidation to compel the men to accept it. But the porters and maids have organized and held their lines on the industrial battle front for nearly five years, although they have lost a large number of their soldiers in the struggle. They will continue to hold the lines. Their victory is your victory and their defeat your defeat. The victory of the Pullman Porters is not only significant from the point of view of the great results of their organization; but it means the stimulation of interest in organizations among Negroes in all industries. It means that it will hearten and encourage the thousands of Negro girls and women in the garment industry to join the International Ladies' Garment Union and fight side by side with their white brothers and sisters for a better day.

Our long struggle has been extremely expensive and some of the men, as in other organizations, have lost courage and fallen by the way side. Some have failed to keep up in paying their dues. Therefore, we are calling upon the International Ladies' Garment Workers in convention assembled in Cleveland to make a contribution to the Sleeping Car Porters' fight for the right to organize, a living wage and the eight hour day.

We must intensify and carry forward our organization program; but it requires an immense amount of funds since our movement is spread throughout the entire country. We are now a part of the American Federation of Labor, having received charters of affiliation. You have helped our cause in the past; and we shall appreciate whatever support you may find it convenient to give us now.

The Brotherhood will be glad to lend its support to the International Ladies' Garment Workers at any time in its great drive to organize the colored workers in the garment industry.

Forward to victory!

Fraternally yours,

A. PHILIP RANDOLPH,  
President and General Organizer,  
N. B. S. C. P.

Your Committee is very appreciative of the co-operation offered to the International by the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters in our campaign to organize the colored dressmakers of New York. Our Committee is aware of the help our International extended to this organization during the past few years to help the pullman porters morally and financially in their efforts to organize and establish decent and humane condition for their members.

Your Committee recommends that our International continue to render moral and financial aid to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and refers the matter to the incoming General Executive Board.

Adopted by the Convention.

#### Mooney and Billings

Your Committee received Resolution No. 36, the Resolves of which read:

#### Resolution No. 36

Introduced by the delegation of Local No. 10, New York.

**RESOLVED**, that the 20th Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union urges the American Federation of Labor to continue to use its good offices to obtain the release of Mooney and Billings; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that we urge the American Federation of Labor to appeal at this time to the proper authorities to the end that justice may be done these two men.

Your Committee, after a careful study of the data received, ascertained the following facts:

1—That Mooney and Billings were convicted on perjured testimony.

2—That every important witness who testified against Mooney and Billings was proven to be a perjurer and many have since confessed their infamous part in the trial of these two men.

3—That the same witnesses who testified in the Mooney and Billings case were discredited in the trial of Mrs. Rona Mooney in whose case the State could not get a conviction, and the notorious Mr. Fickert was compelled to drop the prosecution of other defendants



whom, at the behest of the United Traction Railways, he was trying to send to the gallows.

4—That since the trial, the judge who sentenced Mooney and Billings to the gallows, all of the jurymen, excepting one who is dead, and the general States Attorney of California have affirmed Mooney's innocence and have repeatedly pleaded either for a new trial or a pardon for these two men.

Your Committee recommends concurrence in the resolution, and further recommends that the incoming G. E. B. be instructed to work out a plan whereby financial and moral aid can be given to the proper committees working in behalf of the release of Mooney and Billings.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** I want to read an extract of a letter which was received at my office in New York. Brother Rosen of Local No. 22 was in California recently and while there he visited Mooney in prison. He transmitted a letter, signed by Tom Mooney, and I shall read you that part in which he explains the activity of the Communists in that trial. I want you to know what the Communists are doing in different organizations. Superficially, it looks as though it were for a great purpose, but in actual fact it is only a matter of collecting money. The extract is as follows:

"The International Labor Defense is not authorized to collect funds for the LEGAL DEFENSE of Mooney. This is a slander upon the Honorable Frank P. Walsh, who is my counsel, and while last May, 1928, and again in August, he warned me against this organization—saying they were impossible, that we could not work with them and tried to discourage me from letting them have any hand in my case. For a time, I would not listen to this. I felt that they could give publicity to the case, as your paper had been doing, but they are not satisfied with that, they want to exploit the case for their own ends—using it to collect funds, which never come to Mooney and Billings or their defense. They have never sent one red copper of

money to the Tom Mooney Molders' Defense Committee which to date has had charge of the actual defense of the cases of Mooney and Billings. They have done worse—they have through their agents, accomplished something that the very powers that sought to destroy us could not accomplish during these past thirteen years—separated Billings and myself. Their agent on this coast has brought this about—caused dissatisfaction between Billings and myself, Billings asking me to sever his case from mine: I to go my own way."

I just read that extract so that some of the delegates who did not know what the Communists are doing might know what their society, called the International Labor Defense, has done with the money they collected for Mooney and Billings. They didn't get one red copper of that money. The Communists pocketed the money.

**DELEGATE A. PLOTKIN** (Local No. 8): While in California I made it my business, from time to time, to see Tom Mooney.

If ever there was a case in which the Communists deserve to be punished, it is in this case. They are robbing an innocent, helpless man in a penitentiary who can't protect himself.

Their effort to split Mooney and Billings didn't work. Mooney and Billings are again working together. Only as a matter of expediency it was decided to put in Mooney's petition for pardon first and let the Billings' petition wait. Judge Griffith, the man who sentenced them to hang, said, "If we get the release of Mooney, Billings will automatically have to be released because Billings is just as innocent as Mooney is."

I want to call attention to the peculiar circumstances surrounding this case. You heard the resolution which stated that the State's Attorney General of California had appealed to the Supreme Court. Imagine the State Attorney General of Massachusetts appealing in behalf of Sacco and Vanzetti; that is exactly what happened in California. The Attorney General, convinced of the in-



nocence of these two men, came to the Supreme Court and asked the Supreme Court of California to grant a new trial on the basis that the evidence in the case had been perjured. As a result of that a piece of legislation was passed a year ago in which the Supreme Court pledged its support to review the testimony and to recommend to the Governor to grant a pardon. Since then the Governor has turned the case over to the Board of Pardons.

I want to call your attention to the fact that these men stand as heroic figures in the American labor movement today. Mooney and Billings could be freed if they would go to the Governor and ask for parole. I talked with Mooney and he said, "I would rather be dead than to come out with a statement of shame on my name and on the name of the labor movement of this country. I want to come out with a clear name for myself and for the labor movement of this country that will be convicted with me if I acknowledge the guilt and accept the parole."

I want to put in a plea this morning for you to help these two men as much as it is within your power, and I want to put in a plea to the International Executive Board not to sleep on this case, but to help these two men.

As my concluding remark I want to give you the message which Mooney sent you when I was talking to him just a day before I left for this convention. He said to me, "Tell them at the convention that I hope to be in person at the next convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union." (Applause.)

The motion in behalf of Mooney and Billings was adopted and the Committee continued its report.

Your Committee received a request for moral and financial support from the Pioneer Youth Movement and the Manumit School.

Your Committee is aware of the great work that the Pioneer Youth Movement does in running summer camps for the children of trade union parents where, in addition to splendid recreation, the

children are brought closer to an appreciation of the labor movement and trade union principles.

Your Committee heartily recommends assistance to the Pioneer Youth Movement.

Your Committee also recommends the continuance of moral and financial support to the Manumit School. Your Committee consider this school as one of the outstanding educational institutions for the youth of America. It is an experimental school where modern methods of education are used and where the vision of a new social order is the inspiring ideal.

Your Committee refers the matter of financial support to the incoming G. E. B. Adopted by the Convention.

A letter from the Modern School Association of N. A., Inc., Stelton, New Jersey, also known as the Ferrer School, was referred to the Committee as Resolution No. 100.

#### Resolution No. 100

Letter from The Modern School Association of N. A., Inc., Stelton, New Jersey:

December 1, 1929.

Abraham Baroff,  
I. L. G. W. U., -  
Hotel Winton, Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings:

The Ferrer Modern School Association, Inc., of which some of your locals have for many years been members, send you our greetings and wish you success in your deliberations.

Our school which is the first progressive school in America organized to expound and to practice libertarianism in education, and is now in its fifteenth year of schooling working class children, with a tried and competent staff, has at all times been supported by the voluntary aid of workers and working class organization, among which your union has been a faithful contributor.

In your present deliberations, we hope to be remembered and to continue in the favor of your moral and financial support.

Yours for progress,  
The Ferrer Modern School, Inc.  
SALLY G. AXELROD,  
Cor. Sec'y.

Your Committee recommends the continuance of our moral and financial support to the Ferrer School and refers this matter to the incoming G. E. B.

Adopted by the Convention.

Your Committee received Resolution No. 105, which reads:

**Resolution No. 105**

Introduced by unanimous consent.

WHEREAS, the Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union at Cleveland received a report upon the conditions of the declassed Jews in Russia, and

WHEREAS, it appears that the solution of the problem of the declassed Jews lies in vocational training and productive occupation, and

WHEREAS, the Tool Campaign Committee and the Ort are carrying on work to solve the problem of the declassed in Russia, and

WHEREAS, the traditional policy of the I. L. G. W. U. has always been to stretch out its hand in help to the war stricken and war sufferers and to all those suffering from the aftermath of the war; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Convention wholeheartedly endorse the work of the Tool Campaign Committee and the Ort, and that the incoming G. E. B. is hereby empowered to devise ways and means of furthering the progress of this very useful work.

The General Executive Board, in its report to the Convention, recommends endorsement of this campaign.

Your Committee deeply appreciates the importance of this campaign and the services rendered by the American Ort to the declassed Jewish masses of Soviet Russia. Your Committee unanimously recommends that this Convention wholeheartedly endorse the work of the Tool Campaign and the Ort and that the G. E. B. be empowered to devise ways and means of furthering the progress of this very useful work.

Adopted by the Convention.

VICE-PRESIDENT HOCHMAN read resolutions in behalf of the Consumptive Sanatorium of Denver, Colorado, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, the Hebrew Sheltering Society, the Los Angeles Sanatorium, Ex-Patients' Home, Deborah

Sanatorium, Ferrer School, Manumit School, the Rand School, Pioneer Youth and others, and moved the adoption of the report of the Committee concerning the requests for aid from the above-named institutions. The motion was carried.

**Funds for Relief Purposes**

Your Committee submitted to you a number of letters and resolutions from various organizations requesting moral and financial support.

We are proud to say that our International has, in the past, gained for itself an enviable reputation in the entire labor movement, and in the community at large, for the generous support it has rendered every worthy cause. We are sure that the delegates to this Convention and our entire membership wish to continue this policy in the future. However, because of reasons explained to the Convention by the report of the G. E. B., and the reports of the various committees, our International has no funds available for such purposes at this time. Therefore, in order that our International might continue to give substantial financial support to these worthy institutions, it is necessary that a special fund be created.

Your Committee therefore recommends that the incoming General Executive Board be empowered by this Convention to designate a day in the height of the season upon which collections shall be made by all chairmen in all shops under the control of our Union, and that the collections of such fund shall be forwarded to the International, and that the General Executive Board shall then distribute the funds among the various institutions which are worthy of its assistance.

PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER: In the past we have always been very liberal and very generous, and I don't believe we have any cause to regret it. I really believe that if it had not been for the great communal work we have done, it would have been impossible for us to raise any money when we started out last year to rebuild our Union. From at

least one person I got as much as \$50,000. What impressed that person the most was the fact that, when we were strong, we were willing to assist all benevolent movements.

I also got loans from other people. I don't want to mention names, but I suppose you believe me when I tell you it wasn't through Tammany Hall or the Republican party.

It was the generous way in which we have acted toward benevolent matters that helped us, and I think the more we do in that direction, the better it will be. However, as much as we are willing to help all of these organizations, we haven't the money. What we have at the present time are debts. Yet we want to help them, and you have heard the recommendation of the Committee, namely, that the General Executive Board designate a certain day in the height of the season when every shop chairman shall take up voluntary collections.

The motion was carried unanimously.

#### 35 Cent Dues Insufficient

Your Committee received for its consideration the portion of the Officers' report which deals with the question of an increase in the weekly dues' payments of the members to their respective locals, which reads as follows:

We believe it is time that agitation be started in such of our locals and subdivisions as still have a low rate of dues, for an increase in the weekly dues. Such an increase of dues is a vital necessity to the Union that cannot be sidestepped or dodged any longer. It is an open secret to every clear-thinking union member that our locals and joint boards cannot maintain themselves on their present dues. In the past the result has been that we were compelled to resort time and again to either local or general special taxes to be able to meet the needs of running our Union. This is neither practicable, nor is it to the liking of our membership. An educational campaign constructively conducted should convince the overwhelming majority of our members of the wisdom of an increase in dues. We heartily recommend it.

An examination of the financial condition of the various locals affiliated with our International, especially of the

locals comprising the New York Joint Board, reveals the fact that the present rate of dues of 35 cents per week is not sufficient to cover the required expenditures of these organizations.

Our membership must be given to understand that these expenses must be covered if they desire to have an organization fully able and competent to protect their rights and interests in the shops where they are employed. As our organizations have no other source of income except the one source—that of the weekly contributions in the form of dues paid by the membership, such dues must naturally be of a rate sufficient to cover such expenditures.

Your Committee is convinced that our membership already understands this elementary principle—that you cannot maintain an organization without sufficient financial means. Your Committee favorably comments on the suggestion of the G. E. B. to carry on an educational campaign among our members for the provision of financial security and stability for every local of our International. Your Committee is sure that the G. E. B. will be successful in this just and proper undertaking; that the membership will favorably respond to the call of the G. E. B. and that in the near future the International and the locals will obtain the proper and required financial support from the membership in a manner which will secure our victories and our achievements.

Your Committee recommends the adoption of the G. E. B. as above quoted.

The motion to adopt this was carried.

In examining the report of the G. E. B. to this Convention, your Committee found the following:

The International is still staggering under a burden of debts, for which interest must be paid, and which are becoming more and more oppressive. The Boston convention has endorsed a three-days' earnings assessment to liquidate this debt. But the events of the past year and a half have made the levy of such an assessment upon the membership impossible. The burden, however, is still here, and we must lift it.

We recommend, therefore, that this convention authorize the levy of a tax upon the whole membership of \$3.00 per year for the



next two years, which is, in our opinion, a moderate assessment, to clear off some of the most distressing debts of the International. We ask that the incoming G. E. U. be instructed to carry out this levy.

Your Committee does not believe it is necessary to enter into a detailed discussion of this recommendation. The squandering of funds by the Communists in the tragic General Strike of 1926 is well known to every member. The indebtedness incurred during the internal struggle, the funds raised for the conduct of the General Strike of Cloakmakers in New York, left a large debt to be met by the International. In the last few months, the financial condition of our Union has improved greatly. The International succeeded in re-establishing its good name. Nevertheless there still is a huge debt to be met. In addition to this, the rehabilitation of our New York Joint Board stirred up a movement for organization in all centers of the United States and Canada. This Convention has endorsed a general strike among the New York dressmakers and general strikes and organization campaigns in various localities.

To meet this indebtedness and to enforce the decisions of this Convention, it is absolutely necessary that the recommendation of the G. E. B. be carried into effect without delay.

Your Committee therefore recommends concurrence in the recommendation of the G. E. B.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** The report of the Committee is to adopt the recommendation made by the General Executive Board to this Convention, namely, that this Convention authorize the levying of a tax upon the whole membership, of \$5 per year for two years, to pay off the debts of the International.

I want to tell you Sisters and Brothers, that the International owes a lot of money. Most of these loans were obtained during the time of the general strike in 1926, and some of them during the time of the reorganization—the "registration" as you called it. The re-

port here shows that we owe over a million dollars.

**DELEGATE STUDENT:** I am not against the recommendation, but I want to ask if there isn't a provision in the constitution for extra assessments against the members to be made by referendum vote?

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** If there is such a provision, it will be complied with.

The motion to adopt the recommendation of the Committee was put to a vote and carried. (Applause.)

Vice-President Hochman continued to report:

In examining the report of the G. E. B. to this Convention, your Committee found the following recommendation:

We recommend that this convention authorize the incoming G. E. B. to dispose of union properties when they see fit to do so in the interest of the Union and of the membership as a whole.

The International and the New York Joint Board own or have equity interest in some properties used as headquarters in New York City, which have lost their value to us owing to the shift of industrial centers or for equally important reasons. Such a grant of authority by this convention will give the G. E. B. a free hand, when a suitable occasion arises to dispose advantageously of such property.

Your Committee recommends concurrence in this recommendation.

The motion to adopt was carried.

#### OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

Your Committee also wishes to comment on the following portion of the report of the G. E. B. to this Convention:

We recommend that our publications, heretofore being issued either weekly or every other week, be issued once a month in the form of a magazine.

Our publications cost a lot of money, far more than we can afford or, as we believe, far more than what they are worth to us from a practical point of view. We believe that as a trade union we are not in the publishing business primarily. Like every other American trade union we need an official organ in which our activity can be recorded and from which the rest of the trade union world might



learn, when they are interested, of our affairs and problems. Our workiles have been too costly a proposition to us, and if we can save tens of thousands of dollars annually through such a change, we can certainly put this money to better organisational advantage.

From the financial report submitted by Secretary Baroff, we find on page 10 that the cost of the publications for the past year and a half amounted to \$69,023.97. It is the belief of your Committee that a monthly magazine, as recommended in the report of the G. E. B., will serve the purpose of keeping our membership and all those interested in our organization informed of the important happenings in our Union. There may be, however, special circumstances that may necessitate a deviation from this policy. We recommend that the incoming G. E. B. be empowered to make such exceptions.

With this recommendation and modification, your Committee recommends concurrence in this resolution.

The motion to adopt the recommendation was put to a vote, the result being 82 in favor of adoption of the report and 27 against.

**VICE PRESIDENT HOCHMAN:** This, Brother President, concludes the report of our Committee.

Your Committee wishes to express its gratitude to the President and the Convention for the honor of electing it to serve the Convention.

Fraternally submitted,

Julius Hochman, Local 22, Chairman  
Jacob Heller, Local 17, Secretary.  
Benjamin Moser, Local 2.  
Leon Schwager, Local 3.  
Dave Feitelson, Local 5.  
M. W. Jacobs, Local 10.  
S. Friedman, Local 20.  
Louis Langer, Local 35.  
Rose Baunstein, Local 38.  
Abe Goldin, Local 40.  
Isaac Posen, Local 46.  
B. Destl, Local 48.  
Robert Trehub, Local 73.  
Louis Hurwitz, Local 75.  
Mario Turco, Local 80.  
Frank Olivo, Local 89.  
Morris Berkowitz, Local 91.

The Committee was discharged with the thanks of the Convention.

#### CUTTERS ORGANIZE WORKMEN'S CIRCLE BRANCH

Vice-President Dublinsky read the following telegram:

New York, Dec. 7, 1929.

Mr. David Dublinsky,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

The Cutters of Local No. 10 welcome the decision of the Convention's endorsement of the resolution urging its members to join the Workmen's Circle. Local No. 10 having always been in the vanguard of our International, again takes the initiative, and we are happy to inform you that the Cutters have already organized to apply for a charter to the Workmen's Circle with application of over a hundred members. Long live our International Union.

M. L. GORDON,  
HARRY COHEN,  
MOE FALIKMAN,  
SAM GREENBERG.

Delegate Breslau, Chairman, and Delegate Reisberg, Secretary of the Organization Committee, read a supplementary report on resolutions that had been omitted from or had come in after their previous report. These resolutions are Nos. 54, 106 and 107. Delegate Reisberg stated that the Committee wishes to include Resolution No. 54 in its recommendation on the Boston situation and it was so carried. Resolutions Nos. 106 and 107 were referred to the General Executive Board for action, with the unanimous consent of the Convention.

The Resolves are as follows:

#### Resolution No. 54

Introduced by delegates of Local 46, Boston.

**RESOLVED**, that this 20th convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union instruct the incoming General Executive Board to institute an intensive dress organization campaign in Boston and vicinity to the end that all dress workers may be brought into Local No. 46 thereby establishing uniformly high standards of employment throughout the entire industry.

**Resolution No. 103**

Introduced by unanimous consent by Sol Polakoff and Philip Kramor.

WHEREAS, there are many shops in the city of Worcester engaged in the manufacture of skirts and dresses which employ a large number of unorganized workers, and

WHEREAS, there also exist a number of unorganized children's dress shops in Worcester, and

WHEREAS, the workers in these shops are laboring under conditions far below union standards accepted in organized markets, thus constituting a danger to these organized markets as well as an injustice to the Worcester workers, and

WHEREAS, there have been many indications of unrest among these Worcester workers; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that this 20th convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union instruct the new General Executive Board to appoint an organizer who shall institute an immediate aggressive campaign to organize all the ladies' garment workers in Worcester.

**Resolution No. 107**

Introduced by unanimous consent by Fannia M. Cohn, Salvatore W. Bagallo, Local No. 51; Marco Durante, Local No.

88; Florence Petti, Local No. 124; Isaac Levy and Charles Caratanuto, Local No. 136; Mary Varden, Local No. 14.

WHEREAS, we succeeded through the efforts of our International to organize local unions in New Jersey towns, such as Passaic, Bayonne, Hackensack, Jersey City, and Plainfield, and improved the conditions of the workers, and,

WHEREAS, there are in these towns thousands of workers still unorganized, and are being ruthlessly exploited by the employers, and

WHEREAS, this prevents the organized workers from further improving their conditions, and

WHEREAS, this condition is detrimental to the workers in New York; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 20th Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, instruct the incoming General Executive Board, to look into this matter and see what can be done to organize all the workers in those towns.

With these three resolutions the report of the Committee on Organization was completed and the Committee was discharged with the thanks of the Convention.

The Convention adjourned at 12:15 o'clock to two o'clock.

## Seventh Day—Monday Afternoon Session

Cleveland, Ohio, December 9, 1929.

The Convention was called to order at 2 o'clock by President Schlesinger.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** First Vice-President Ninfo will report for the Committee on Law.

**Report of Committee on Law**

**VICE-PRESIDENT NINFO:** Your Committee on Law has received a number of Resolutions dealing with changes and additions to our Constitution. Several of them, especially those pertaining to proportional representation and referendum for General Officers, are of great importance and required our closest attention and consideration.

We are aware that some of our recommendations will not be to the liking

of a number of our delegates. We know that some of our findings will place our Committee open to serious criticism. Yet, your Committee would not serve its true purpose were it to cater to groups or individuals rather than to uphold the basic principles of our International Union.

The aim of your Committee was to bring to this Convention such measures as would give to our International and its membership and to the labor movement in general, the most serviceable legislation that the accumulated experience of labor can offer.

This Convention is assembled after a period of reconstruction within our Union. Therefore, we have been particularly careful in reaching our decisions. For that reason, we may be charged with

going slowly. We preferred going slowly but surely and successfully rather than fast with the probability of failure.

We hope that you will realize the difficulties we encountered in considering the recommendations which we submit for your earnest and sincere attention:

This preamble was approved by the Convention.

Your Committee received Resolution No. 80, the Resolve of which reads:

#### Resolution No. 80

Introduced by Delegation of Local No. 2.

RESOLVED, that this Convention go on record that the elections of business agents be made on the following plan:

1—Every good-standing member from each local affiliated with the Joint Board of the Cloak, Suit, Skirt, Dress and Reefer Makers' Union who desires to be a candidate for business agent of the Joint Board shall make out an application in the office of the Joint Board. The Joint Board shall advertise in the public press and in our own press specifying the time allotted for members of our Union to file applications.

2—The Joint Board after having all the applications filled out, shall send all the applications to each and every local of the Joint Board and give them a specified time in which to prefer any objections, if they so desire.

3—The Joint Board shall then elect an Examination Committee comprised of representatives of the Joint Board and representatives of each local affiliated with the Joint Board. The Joint Board shall also invite five (5) prominent men of the American Labor movement to participate in this Examination Committee. The said committee shall examine all candidates; pass upon all objections and qualifications of each and every candidate, and which decision shall be binding and final.

After the examination of candidates is over, the elections shall be arranged by each local with the understanding that representatives of the Joint Board (Cloak, Suit, Skirt, Dress and Reefer Makers' Union) shall be present at each local election for the purpose of seeing that these elections are conducted in accordance with the provisions of our constitution.

This was adopted by the Convention.

Your Committee, after listening to the introducers of this resolution and the various representatives of the affiliated Locals of the Joint Board, recommends

to this Convention that the incoming General Executive Board, together with the Joint Board, work out a basis for the election of officers, which shall be for the best interests of the affiliated Locals of the Joint Board.

Your Committee received Resolution No. 7 and Resolution No. 84, the Resolves of which read:

#### Resolution No. 7

Introduced by Delegation of Local No. 9, New York:

RESOLVED, that the 20th convention of the I. L. G. W. U. amend the constitution of the International concerning representation in the Joint Board, as follows:

Locals affiliated with the Joint Board with a membership of 500 are entitled to one delegate.

Locals having a membership of 501 to 1000 are entitled to two (2) delegates.

Locals having a membership of more than 1,000 are entitled to two (2) delegates for the first 1,000 members and an additional delegate for each additional 1,000 members.

#### Resolution No. 84

RESOLVED, that Article 6, Section 2 shall also be amended to read as follows:

"A Joint Board consisting of locals, some having less than 1,000 members, and some having a membership more than 1,000; the representation to such Joint Board shall be based on the same representation as each local is entitled to the representation to the Convention. However, in order to create an efficient and workable Joint Board the number of delegates representing the Locals to the Joint Board shall be two-thirds of the representation that each Local of the Joint Board is entitled to the Convention. A fraction of a delegate shall entitle the Local to a full delegate."

Your Committee, after listening to the introducers of these resolutions as well as the managers of the various Locals affiliated with the Joint Board, unanimously decided to refer these resolutions to the incoming General Executive Board. It is the opinion of the Committee that since the question of salaries to be paid to the officers of the Joint Board, as well as the method to be pursued in the election of officers to the Joint Board, were referred to the incoming General Executive Board, that



this matter too should be adjudged by the General Executive Board together with the Joint Board, in a manner that will best serve the interests of our membership.

**DELEGATE MOSER:** On what basis will the General Executive Board be able to work if it will not have a grant from the constitution to that effect?

**DELEGATE KAPLAN:** If this is adjusted by the General Executive Board to the satisfaction of all the locals, naturally the General Executive Board will recommend it. We had the recommendation of the Committee read specifically that the General Executive Board should be given full power. It isn't a question of waiting for locals.

The report of the Committee was put to a vote and carried.

Your Committee received Resolution No. 17, the Resolve of which reads:

**Resolution No. 17**

Introduced by Local No. 10, New York.

**RESOLVED**, that the 20th convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union favor the reduction of the number of vice-presidents so that they shall not total more than thirteen.

This resolution was referred by the Committee on Resolutions to our Committee. Your Committee recommends that Article 3, Section 1, of our Constitution, which was amended at the 1928 Boston Convention, be reamended as it appeared prior to the last Convention to read as follows:

"The General Officers of the I. L. G. W. U. shall consist of a President, a General Secretary-Treasurer and 15 Vice-Presidents, 9 of whom shall be elected from the membership in the City of New York."

This was adopted.

Your Committee received Resolution No. 18, the Resolve of which reads:

**Resolution No. 18**

Introduced by Local No. 3, New York.

**RESOLVED**, that the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. amend the Constitution so that no New York local union shall have more than one of its members on the General Executive Board; and that the local unions of which the General President and General Secretary-Treasurer are members shall not have any of its members serve as vice-presidents; and that the rest of the members of the General Executive Board shall be apportioned among the out-of-town centers.

Your Committee recommends the rejection of this Resolution.

**DELEGATE KIRTZMAN:** I would amend this resolution as follows:

"**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. amend the constitution so that no local union shall have more than one of its members on the General Executive Board."

I would not include the reference to the question of secretary-treasurer or president. This would make it impossible for a local to have more than one representative on the General Executive Board, with the exception of the president and secretary-treasurer. The president and secretary-treasurer shall not be considered as representatives, they shall be considered as chief officers of the International.

**VICE PRESIDENT GREENBERG:** This would mean that a local may not have both a president or secretary and a vice-president on the Board.

**VICE PRESIDENT RUBINSKY:** I make the following substitute for the whole:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. amend the Constitution so that no local union shall have more than one of its members on the General Executive Board; and that the local unions of which the General President and General Secretary-Treasurer are members shall have no more than one of its members on the General Executive Board as a vice-president.

Your Committee received Resolution No. 83, the Resolve of which reads as follows:

**Resolution No. 83**

Introduced by delegation of Local No. 2, New York.



**RESOLVED**, that the incoming General Executive Board see to it that the above-mentioned article of the constitution shall be strictly enforced.

Your Committee, after listening to the representatives of Local No. 2, decided that since the Constitution clearly provides a method of procedure in this matter, there is no necessity for your Committee to act on it. It is the duty of the General Executive Board to enforce this provision in the event a complaint is filed.

**DELEGATE STUDENT:** This provision of the constitution was not being enforced properly.

**DELEGATE NAGLER:** A reflection has been made by Brother Student, the previous speaker, on the General Executive Board, namely, that the General Executive Board overlooked constitutional provisions. I would like to know whether at any time Delegate Student or the Local that he represents came to the General Executive Board with any objection calling their attention to it.

The motion was put to a vote and carried.

The report of the Committee was put to a vote, the result being 93 for its adoption and 10 against.

**VICE PRESIDENT GREENBERG**, secretary of the Law Committee, at this point took up the reading of the report.

Your Committee received Resolution No. 28, the Resolve of which reads:

#### Resolution No. 28

Introduced by Boston Joint Board and Locals:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the last paragraph of Article No. 14 of our Constitution, which reads: "Such amendments or repeals shall take effect not later than thirty (30) days after date of this convention," be stricken from our Constitution.

Your Committee recommends that rejection of this resolution for the reason that it necessitates at least thirty days for the General Executive Board to advise Local Unions of the decisions enacted by the Convention.

**VICE PRESIDENT AMOUR:** Unless the thirty day provision is stricken out, certain decisions of the Convention cannot become effective until then, so that the decision to reduce the size of the Board would have to wait until after the Convention.

After considerable discussion an amendment to read "not later than thirty days" was accepted by the Committee and adopted by the Convention.

Your Committee received Resolutions Nos. 24 and 81, the Resolves of which read:

#### Resolution No. 24

##### Dues Arrears

**RESOLVED**, that the 20th Convention of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union hereby amend Article 10, Section 10, of its Constitution to read:

Section 10. Members who have failed to pay dues for a period of 26 weeks shall be automatically expelled from the union.

#### Resolution No. 81

Introduced by Delegation of Local No. 2, New York:

Article 10, Section 10 to be amended to read as follows:

Members in arrears for more than twenty-six (26) weeks shall be automatically expelled from membership.

Your Committee recommends the rejection of these Resolutions and further recommends that the G. E. B. be instructed to advise the Local Unions that the present basis of 39 weeks shall be enforced.

**DELEGATE KAPLAN (Local No. 2):** I want to make it clear that Local No. 2, in introducing this resolution, did not have in mind imposing the impossible on the members of this Union.

Since, according to the Constitution, members are considered in good standing up to thirty-nine weeks, the Joint Board of New York has made a decision to extend at certain periods, the time to a year, which means fifty-two weeks.

We thought 26 weeks of arrears was sufficient time for a member to be carried in the Union, and no local union

should be obligated to meet its obligations to the International and to the Joint Board when the members do not pay dues. If our members knew that they could not owe more than twenty-six weeks, no demagogues could agitate that they shall not pay their dues, because they would not want to run the risk of being stricken out.

**DELEGATE N. KIRTZMAN** (Local No. 9): I do not believe that making a rule of twenty-six weeks will stop the demagogues or anyone else from agitating to our members against paying dues. If the International and the local unions are on the job, there is no plausible reason why the members should stop paying dues when they are twenty-six weeks in arrears. My contention is that if they will not live up to the thirty-nine weeks, they will not live up to the twenty-six weeks.

**DELEGATE PERLMUTTER:** Brother Kaplan presents the argument that at the present time members claim they have nine months to pay, and if they are asked to pay dues before nine months have elapsed, they will plead that they still have time. I wonder whether the very same fellow wouldn't use that argument if he has twenty-six weeks?

**DELEGATE PICK** (Local No. 3): I am speaking of the experience that we have had. It is absolutely impossible for the local unions to exist if the members are permitted to be nine months in arrears.

**VICE PRESIDENT NINFO:** I wish to call the attention of Locals No. 3 and 2, that the International Constitution never had any provision which gave the members any opportunity to be twelve months in arrears. Article No. 8, Section 13, reads: "Members shall pay in advance all dues and general and local assessments passed by the Convention or by the Joint Board. Any member who is three months in arrears shall be suspended from all rights and privileges." Therefore, if you want to enforce this particular law, please enforce it in your shop. Anybody who is not in good

standing within the thirteen weeks, may be put out of his job.

The Committee's recommendation to reject the resolutions was carried.

Your Committee received Resolution No. 13, the Resolve of which reads:

#### Resolution No. 13

Introduced by Morris Cohen, H. Silverman, L. Rosenfelt, Mario Turco, Abraham Reiter, A. Dimini, Max Holman, Bernard Goldberg, Joseph Miller, Hyman Newman.

**RESOLVED**, that this Convention enact a law providing that no General Officer be permitted to run for office for re-election after having served two consecutive terms in office; and that such officer may run again for office only after one full term has elapsed after he or she has been out of office.

Your Committee recommends the rejection of this Resolution for the reason that its acceptance would deprive the organization of men of experience, who can best serve the interests of the members.

Recommendation to reject adopted by Convention.

Your Committee received Resolution No. 25, the Resolve of which reads:

#### Resolution No. 25

Introduced by Local No. 80, Boston:

**RESOLVED**, that Section No. 12 on withdrawals be amended so that a person who has withdrawn for one year upon return to his organization be given a union book on the purchase of one dues stamp.

Your Committee recommends the rejection of this Resolution on the ground that, in accordance with our Constitution, Local Unions can decide their own basis for reinstatement of membership.

The recommendation to reject was adopted by the Convention.

Your Committee received Resolution No. 22, the Resolve of which reads:

#### Resolution No. 22

Introduced by Local No. 3, New York:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the 20th Convention of the International Ladies' Garment

Workers' Union amends Article 2, Section 2 of its constitution, to-wit:

The expenses of delegates to the convention shall be paid by the local unions which they represent. If local unions are financially unable to defray the expenses of their delegates, the General Executive Board shall have the power to pay the expenses of each such local union.

The president, first vice-president and general secretary-treasurer shall be regular delegates to the convention only when duly nominated and elected by their respective local unions.

Your Committee recommends the rejection of this Resolution. It is the opinion of the Committee that since the general officers perform their work directly for the International, they should be the duly authorized delegates of the International. Concurrence in this resolution would place the General Officers of our International in the same category as the rank and file members of our Union.

The recommendation to reject was adopted by the Convention.

Resolutions Nos. 6 and 16 on proportional representation were read and aroused considerable discussion in which Delegates Heller, Dubinsky, Hochman, Hattab and Greenberg participated. Upon suggestion of President Schlesinger the Convention referred the matter back to the Committee.

The question of the referendum election of officers came up at this point and Vice-President Greenberg announced that there was a majority and minority report but that the Committee would withdraw to formulate a unanimous report. This was greeted with cheers and applause from the delegates.

#### Report of Committee on Adjustment

Your Committee on Adjustment recognizes the responsibility reposed in it by the Convention. It has been our guiding thought to seek the adjustment of all requests and controversial questions in such a manner that would satisfy all parties concerned. In accepting the responsibility of making recommendations on these questions, your Committee has sought only to advance harmony and unity within our International. It has

recognized the good faith and sincere desire of the movers of every resolution submitted to it.

Before proceeding to our recommendations on specific resolutions referred to us, your Committee would like to point out a striking feature of the Committee's work as compared with the work of the Adjustment Committee in other recent conventions. The number of controversial problems before the Committee were very few as compared with the serious adjustment problems of other conventions. We believe that this situation is an excellent indication of the underlying harmony in our International.

Your Committee received Resolution No. 67, the Resolve of which reads:

#### Resolution No. 67

Introduced by Local No. 30, Boston.

RESOLVED, that, to encourage and make possible organization of the Italian ladies' garment workers in Chicago, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union issue a charter to the Italian branch in Chicago, thus changing it from a branch to a local union.

In considering this Resolution, your Committee kept uppermost in mind the need for furthering the interests of the Italian cloakmakers of Chicago. Your Committee regrets that this Resolution was not sponsored by the Branch nor by any delegate from Chicago. We are informed that the Italian branch in Chicago has shown very little activity. Your Committee recalled that a similar resolution was introduced at the Boston convention in 1928 and was referred to the G. E. B. Since that convention the G. E. B. saw no reason for chartering the branch as a local.

Representatives from the Chicago Joint Board, questioned by your Committee, stated that there was no desire on the part of the Branch to become a local. Your Committee, therefore, feels that it would be unwise to create a local for which there is no evident desire.

We, therefore, recommend that this matter be referred to our International President and that he look into the matter at his earliest opportunity and that

he be empowered to issue a local charter to the Italian Branch of Chicago if he finds it advisable.

This was adopted by the Convention.

Your Committee received Resolution No. 68, the Resolves of which read:

**Resolution No. 68**

Introduced by the Philadelphia Delegation.

RESOLVED, that this twentieth convention of our International instruct the incoming General Executive Board to place the cloak shops of Camden under the sole control of the Philadelphia Joint Board; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that all agreements made in the future with Camden contractors who work for New York jobbers be made in conjunction with representatives of the Philadelphia Joint Board.

In examining the testimony submitted to your Committee on this matter, we found that the shops in Camden are under the supervision of the Out-of-Town Department of the International and operate under agreements with the New York Joint Board.

Your Committee therefore recommends the rejection of the first Resolve in this resolution.

Your Committee is in full accord with the second Resolve that agreements entered into in the future with contractors operating in Camden for New York jobbers be made in conjunction with representatives of the Philadelphia Joint Board, inasmuch as Camden is located very near to Philadelphia and affects the conditions of the workers in Philadelphia to a great extent.

Your Committee recommends the adoption of the second Resolve.

The Convention so decided.

Your Committee received Resolution No. 66, the Resolve of which reads:

**Resolution No. 66**

Introduced by Local No. 80, Boston.

RESOLVED, that all Italian speaking ladies' garment workers in Boston shall be members of Local No. 80.

A number of representatives of the Boston organization appeared before your Committee. From their statements, we gathered that practically all the Italian workers in Boston are members of Local No. 80.

However, should there be members in the other local unions who rightfully belong to Local No. 80, the Joint Board of Boston, in the opinion of your Committee, could adjust this matter.

Your Committee, therefore, sees no necessity for this Resolution, and recommends non-concurrence.

The Convention so decided.

Your Committee received Resolution No. 55, the Resolves of which read:

**Resolution No. 55**

Introduced by Max Holman and Bernard Goldberg, Boston.

RESOLVED, that all finishers who are at present members of any other local be transferred to Local No. 39; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that all finishers who are at present affiliated with Local No. 46 shall be transferred to Local No. 39.

In dealing with the Resolution, your Committee took cognizance of the fact that in every other locality, the dress finishers are a part of the dressmakers' local. In view of the present organization campaign, which is expected to culminate in a general strike in the cloak and suit industries in Boston, your Committee deems it absolutely inadvisable to bring in any changes in the composition of our organization.

Your Committee therefore recommends non-concurrence in this Resolution.

The recommendation of non-concurrence was adopted by the Convention.

Your Committee received Resolution No. 65, the Resolve of which reads:

**Resolution No. 65**

Introduced by the delegation of Local No. 23, New York.

RESOLVED, that wherever skirts are made in New York City the workers engaged in it should be members of the Skirt Makers' Union, Local No. 23.



Your Committee recommends concurrence in this resolution.

**VICE PRESIDENT HOCHMAN:** I think the Resolution and recommendation are not very clear. There are some shops where the dress is made by one operator. There are other shops where the dresses are sectionalized, but where the operators are all working under the same conditions, one operator will be making the waist, and another the skirt. Local No. 23 requires that the girl who makes the skirt must be a member of Local No. 23.

I am afraid from the way this Resolution and recommendation have been framed that there will be a lot of jurisdictional dispute and conflict, and I don't think it is the purpose of this convention to create such disputes. In my opinion, this should be referred to the General Executive Board.

**VICE-PRESIDENT WANDER:** The resolution introduced by the delegation of Local No. 23 to this Convention does not ask for any new territory. We merely ask for a reaffirmation of the rights given us when we were first chartered as a skirtmakers' local of the International. No one has a right to deny our request as long as our charter reads 'Skirtmakers' Union.' We do not care what materials skirts are made of, whether they be cloth, silk or any other material, but we do care that those working on skirts should be members of the Skirtmakers' Union, Local No. 23.

At any rate, I believe the amendment is out of order.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** The delegates have heard both side of the matter and I wouldn't like to decide such matters by point of order. It would look as though we were trying to deprive Local No. 23 of what it is entitled to.

**VICE-PRESIDENT WANDER:** My point of order is that the Skirtmakers' Union is the only one which makes skirts in the city of New York.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** Isn't it

a fact that in the olden days of Local No. 3, skirt tailors were also members of that local?

**VICE-PRESIDENT BRESLAU:** I think the Convention should go on record as re-affirming the charter and give it jurisdiction over skirts, because in my opinion there is nothing to investigate.

**DELEGATE SNYDER** (Secretary of the Committee): The Committee found that Local 23 is a chartered local and has jurisdiction over skirts, no matter where they are made. We are reporting on another resolution later on that refers to sports wear. Uncertain as to what constitutes sports wear, we were compelled to render a different decision, but we thought we were very clear as to what skirts are. There was a representative of Local 22 present at our meeting and he did not object to the concurrence of this resolution. Therefore, I believe that the Committee is right in its recommendation that this resolution be concurred with.

The recommendation of the Committee was then adopted.

**VICE-PRESIDENT KREINDLER** read Resolution No. 63 and moved the adoption of the report of the Committee.

#### Resolution No. 63

Introduced by delegations of Locals Nos. 23, 9 and 2, New York.

WHEREAS, the process of manufacture of Sportwear requires the same degree of skill as the manufacture of Cloaks and Suits, and is considered as a part of the Cloak and Suit Industry; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that all such garments be made under the same standards and conditions as Cloaks and Suits are made.

Your Committee recommends concurrence in this Resolution. The report of the Committee was adopted. 4

Your Committee received Resolution No. 64, the Resolve of which reads:

#### Resolution No. 64

Introduced by delegation of Local No. 23, New York.

RESOLVED, that the Charter of Local No.

23 be amended to read: Shirt and Sportswear Makers' Union, of New York.

Your Committee summoned representatives of Local No. 23 to appear before it. These representatives could not define the term "sportswear."

Your Committee is, therefore, of the opinion that before rendering a decision, this matter should be investigated. It recommends that this matter be referred to the incoming G. E. B. to look into, in conjunction with the New York Joint Board, and make the necessary adjustment on the basis of their findings.

**DELEGATE MOSER:** It is not necessary to investigate since it is known that most sportswear is made in cloak shops.

**DELEGATE NAGLER:** The question had never come up on the floor of the N. Y. Joint Board.

The recommendation of the Committee was adopted.

This concluded the report of the Committee on Adjustment and it was adopted, as a whole, with the thanks of the Convention. The Committee was composed of the following delegates:

Chas. Kreindler, Chairman, Local No. 41  
A. Snyder, Secretary, Local No. 62  
N. Hines, Local No. 2  
L. Kaufman, Local No. 9  
M. Orshowitz, Local No. 17  
Is. Rosenfeld, Local No. 22  
S. Frumchick, Local No. 23  
Louis Biegel, Local No. 35  
Sam Turk, Local No. 37  
Meyer Shamis, Local No. 40  
G. Blondo, Local No. 48  
Jacob Kessler, Local No. 53  
Leon Hattab, Local No. 66  
Beckie Stein, Local No. 69  
M. Schwartzberg, Local No. 81  
Louis Wexler, Local No. 127  
Bary Veldon, Local No. 140.

**DELEGATE KATOFKY,** the chairman of the Committee on Officers' Report, presented the first section of the report and was followed by Delegate Feinberg, the secretary of the Committee, who presented the second part of the report.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON OFFICERS' REPORT

Your Committee in discharging the duty entrusted to it by this Convention of reviewing the activities of our International officers since this body last met, feels the weight of its responsibility to you and the importance of a thorough statement of our present situation, and also an especial happiness at being able to bring to you a story of terrific obstacles overcome, of the triumph of the true spirit of unionism in our ranks, and of the rebirth of that unconquerable idealism which has always placed our International Union in the forefront of the American Labor Movement.

We bring to this Convention a picture that is the direct opposite of that which faced you nineteen months ago. Then we saw a Union harassed by factionalism; broken into fragments by an internal strife that had defied the best and most disinterested efforts of our officials; a union in whose apparent weakness enemies in the employing class were rejoicing; a union whose friends, within its own ranks and among workers generally throughout the nation, felt that desperate efforts must be made if we were to save our once magnificent organization from total ruin.

We faced a situation wherein our most cherished gains, bought with the sufferings and sacrifices of tens of thousands of our fellow workers, were about to be swept away in the attack of hypocritical demagogues.

Today, we bring to you a new picture, one that adds a golden page to our splendid history. The International has witnessed a resurgence of the old fighting spirit, the spirit that gave us the victories of 1910, 1916, 1919, 1920, and the other glorious years of our past.

Not alone have we regained our old position in the industry, not alone have we made the employing class feel again the weight of our hand but we have also in this short period completely rehabilitated and re-established our International in the great fellowship of the American Labor Movement. No honest member of our Union can look upon this

period of truly miraculous achievement without feeling an overwhelming pride in his organization and gratitude to our general officers who have been most responsible for its progress.

The signal victory that has been ours in New York City has revitalized and inspired our organization throughout the country and in order that we may show you how closely related are the events that make up our history we wish to report upon the situation in its natural order, first

#### The New York Cloak Industry

Your Committee in dealing with the chapter pertaining to the New York cloak situation, cannot refrain from commending President Benjamin Schlesinger upon the extraordinary ability and generalship he displayed in the handling of the situation.

We believe that the New York delegation, as well as the delegates from all other centers are quite familiar with the fact that after our return from the Boston Convention where Brother Benjamin Schlesinger assumed the responsibilities as Executive Vice-President of the I. L. G. W. U. he found our Union in a state of almost complete demoralization. The financial structure of the International and the Joint Board of New York was actually on the verge of collapse; the morale of the membership broken down; a combination more than sufficient to discourage any set of men bent upon achieving reconstructive measures.

It is also important to bear in mind the circumstances under which Brother Schlesinger assumed the leadership as President of our International. On October 22nd, while the General Executive Board was in session, a critical situation arose because of the resignation of President Sigman. When a special committee, elected by the last convention, finally rendered its report on October, 1928, to the General Executive Board, President Sigman thereupon submitted his resignation. In his resignation President Sigman stated that the granting of a charter to Local No. 17, which was contrary to the fundamental

principles for which he stood so many years, and was not based on an industrial necessity, prompted him to take this step. Immediately thereafter the General Executive Board, under its signature, issued a statement assuring our membership that the General Executive Board would continue in session and was fully prepared to meet the industrial and organizational problems that confronted the Union. The General Executive Board then proceeded to appoint a committee to work out the procedure for the election of a new president for the International.

As the General Executive Board reports, it thereupon unanimously tendered Vice-President Benjamin Schlesinger the post of chief executive of the Union. Brother Schlesinger, who had offered his resignation before and during the meeting on the ground of failing health, at first firmly declined, but later was prevailed upon to accept, being assured of genuine and undivided support by every member of the General Executive Board.

Your Committee deeply regrets the loss of President Sigman's services. It is only necessary to recall the internal strife of 1925, the Philadelphia convention, the tragic strike of 1926, the struggle which ensued after the Communists gave up the strike and the international stepped in to save the remnants of the Union, and the hardships that followed from the continuous attacks upon our Union and especially upon him personally, to remember the difficulties he experienced during this time. We are very much grieved at this time, that Brother Sigman is ill and could not comply with the invitation to visit this Convention.

After the return of Brother Schlesinger from the Boston Convention, he immediately set about launching a great educational campaign. By a series of pamphlets, he exposed those responsible for the chaos and demoralization which resulted in bringing about a condition in the industry, whereby the cloakmakers found it impossible to earn enough to keep body and soul together.

In addition to this, open forums were

called in all parts of the city for the purpose of enlightening the great membership of the condition of our Union and delivering to them his message of hope, and his faith in the possibility of rebuilding our International.

Your Committee feels that as a result of this great work in which he was so ably assisted by Joseph Breslaw, chairman of the committee which conducted the open forum, and all other members of the General Executive Board, the Joint Board officers, the local officers and active members, a new spirit and desire was instilled into the hearts of their membership for the restoration of their industrial and economic rights.

In addition to all of this our president also wrote a series of articles which were printed in the Forward, and in which he exposed the hypocrisy of those adventurers who, while they were feigning to be supporters of democracy, were in reality seeking to destroy the ideals which had animated the cloak-makers since 1910, and which glorified them not only in the eyes of the Labor movement of the United States but the world over.

These so-called apostles of a new workers' world partly succeeded by their infamous attacks upon every loyal member of our International to break down the code of morals laid down by the founders of the trade union and Socialist movement the world over. By virtue of their new philosophy of trade unionism, scabbing, which had up to that time been considered by all workers as a betrayal of fellow workers, suddenly became a martyrdom, and our President had to cope with this sort of insidious agitation. But cope with it he did, and finally succeeded in unmasking these dark forces and placing them before our membership in their hideous and naked reality.

Almost simultaneously with the launching of the educational campaign, President Schlesinger issued an appeal to the membership, which was unprecedented in the history of our International. He called upon all the cloak, suit, dress and reofer makers to rejoin

our Union with the full right and privileges of old time members, and assured them that they would not be discriminated against in any way whatsoever. This was followed by an appeal of the General Executive Board, which made a strong impression upon our members, and brought them to the realization that the only organization that has a genuine desire to improve the condition in the cloak and suit industry is, and always will be, the I. L. G. W. U. We are proud to report to this Convention that at this time practically 100 percent of the men and women who earn a livelihood in the New York cloak and suit industry are enrolled in the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

President Schlesinger's greatest task was that of keeping the wolf from the door. The financial structure of the International and the Joint Board was actually on the verge of collapse. However, due to Brother Schlesinger's popularity, and the esteem in which he is held in circles not directly connected with the labor movement, but who are nevertheless considered progressive forces in society, he was able to secure a certain amount of money in the form of loans. However, since the money secured from these sources was by far not sufficient to carry through the program that he had mapped out, he devised a most novel plan, namely the issuance of an International Bond, to be sold to the members at large.

A statement was issued to all the Executive Boards of the various locals comprising the Joint Board of New York, explaining this unusual plan to them, which they accepted immediately, without a dissenting vote. Accordingly, the \$250,000.00 International Bond Issue, in denominations of \$50.00, \$100.00 and \$500.00, bearing interest at 5 per cent, payable semiannually, and maturing on December 31, 1931, was placed on sale December 31, 1928.

We are proud to state, that this bond issue was a great success, and we are even more proud of the fact that the members of our International have been the actual subscribers to this bond.



However, we do not want to underestimate the fine co-operation given to us by other unions and fraternal organizations, which again proves that the enemies of our movement have only been able to temporarily unbalance the minds of our members, but have never really reached their hearts and souls.

In the face of all these accomplishments, we feel ourselves in honor bound to express our gratitude and appreciation to President Schlesinger who went into the field, and succeeded in rebuilding our Union, in spite of the tremendous obstacles. To his everlasting credit be it said, the cloakmakers of New York will remember for years to come, that it was Brother Benjamin Schlesinger who restored to them the power and prestige they enjoyed several years ago, but of which they were robbed by a group of adventurers. We hope that never again in the life of our International will there be a repetition of such tragic experiences.

In the midst of this great work, however, there occurred a tragic episode. Our president was suddenly taken ill and was physically unable to carry on the great task he had undertaken. This brought about a crying need for a man who would be able to carry out the plans mapped out by Brother Schlesinger, a man of energy, courage and devotion to the cause. Your committee wishes to commend the General Executive Board for its approval of the recommendation of President Schlesinger to appoint Brother David Dubinsky, as his direct representative in the capacity of acting president. At this point, we desire to express the thanks of the Convention to the Cutters' Union, Local 10, for the fraternal spirit they displayed in releasing Brother Dubinsky from the duties to his Local and enabled him to come to the assistance of our Brother Schlesinger and the International without placing any monetary obligations upon the International.

The choice was a wise and fortunate one, for Acting President Dubinsky has not only shown true leadership, courage, devotion and energy in the work in New York, but also inspired and en-

couraged all the other markets which he visited.

We also take this opportunity to commend very highly, the work of the members of the General Executive Board, namely, Abraham Baroff, Salvatore Ninfo, Joseph Breslau, Julius Hochman, Harry Wander, H. Greenberg, and J. Halperin, who so ably, devotedly and harmoniously worked together with Brother Dubinsky, during the trying period of our Cloak and Suitmakers' Union. And while we are thus commending our general officers for their success, we also wish to state that a great deal of the success of the work in New York is due to Brother Isidore Nagler, general manager of the New York Joint Board Cloak and Dressmakers' Union, who so efficiently organized the strike machinery. In this work he was assisted by the district managers, Brothers Samuel Perlmutter, Benjamin Moser, I. Sorkin, B. Destl, A. Catone, C. Carotenuto, M. Mariconda, together with the local managers, Brother Benjamin Kaplan, David Fruhling, D. Rubin, N. Kirtzman, J. Snyder, S. Fremed, S. Lofkowitz, Max Stoller, L. Rosenblatt and Fannia M. Cohn, Harry Chancer, A. Beason, J. Stankevitch, Ph. Katz, G. Student, Sol. Polakoff, Abraham Rosenberg, as well as many others whose names would make a list too long to mention in this brief report, but with whose activities the delegates can acquaint themselves from the report of the General Executive Board.

We wish also to express our gratitude to the membership of the New York Cloak and Dress Joint Board, for the loyalty that they have shown to our International Union by responding so splendidly to the call of the general strike in the cloak industry. Neither can we overlook the splendid support and co-operation we received from the Cleveland Joint Board, its officers and membership, the Chicago Joint Board, and its affiliated locals and officers, the Boston and Philadelphia Joint Boards, their officers and membership, as well as all the other locals, who came to our assistance, morally and financially.

As a result of this united effort, we

now have a hundred per cent organization in the cloak and suit industry of New York. We have an agreement with all the employers' associations in the industry, which incorporates new features that give to our Union a more advantageous control, and which has practically eliminated sub-standard conditions in the cloak shops of New York. We have reduced and limited the reorganization rights of the employers in the industry; and, what is of the greatest importance to the Union and to the industry at this time, we have established a certain relationship with retail stores and retail stores' associations, chainstores and mail order houses which we hope will result in material benefit to our organization all over the United States.

As a result of the new agreement with the employers in the cloak and suit industry a joint commission was established with representatives of the public serving on it. This commission, we are certain will prevent the possibility of the return of sweat shop conditions in the future by policing the industry and by enlightening the public at large of the methods of production in the industry.

The new agreement also provides for an increase in wages for the workers within one year after the signing of the agreement for the restoration of the Sanitary Label which was neglected by the Communists, the re-establishment of the Unemployment Insurance Fund, the revival of the Joint Board of Sanitary Control, etc.

We cannot leave the subject of the rehabilitation of the New York Cloak makers' Union, without again expressing our admiration for the strategy, generalship and diplomacy of President Benjamin Schlesinger and Acting President David Dubinsky in leading the New York forces during the campaign, negotiations, the strike and the settlement.

Our picture, however, would not be complete, if it did not point to the valuable and whole-hearted support and co-operation given us by the American Federation of Labor, through its presi-

dent, William Green. Brother Green was at all times ready and eager to serve our International. He actually participated in the conferences which took place between our International and Joint Board and the various employers' associations, and used the entire weight and prestige of his position in the labor movement of America, to advance our cause and make the employers realize that in our just demands, we have the strong and solid backing of the American Federation of Labor. His actual presence and participation went a long way towards bringing about an early settlement in the cloak industry. We further want to express our appreciation to Brother Matthew Wohl, Vice-President of the American Federation of Labor, who in the absence of President Green, gave us valuable counsel and advice.

And last but not least, we want to express our gratitude and appreciation to Edward F. McGrady, general organizer of the American Federation of Labor, who occupied the position of chairman of the Committee on Law during the general strike. We are pleased to state that he has given us his whole-hearted co-operation and conducted his part of the strike work in a manner that reflects most creditably upon our organization.

In our struggle in New York, thanks to President Schlesinger, the Union and the support of all fair-minded citizens of the City and the State and of the daily press, who at all times were fair and helpful in bringing the facts to the attention of the public. Thus the conditions under which our workers were working became so well known that the chief executive of the State of New York, Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt called a conference of the various employers' associations and the Union, on the second day of the strike in an attempt to hasten settlement negotiations between us. Lieutenant Governor Herbert H. Lehman actually participated in the final conferences between us and the employers and was at all times helpful with his influence and counsel. Mayor James J. Walker of the City of New York, also

took a great deal of interest and together with Lieutenant Governor Herbert H. Lehman was present during the official signing of the agreements by the four parties which took place in the City Hall of New York.

In connection with the New York cloak situation, your Committee has before it Resolution No. 37, introduced by the Joint Board Cloak, Suit, Skirt, Dress and Reeser Makers' Union which reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the successful termination of the General Strike of the cloakmakers in New York City, has served to mark the beginning of the revival of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and all its affiliated locals, and

WHEREAS, this great victory could not have been achieved without the generous aid and assistance given us by the American Federation of Labor, the labor movement in general and the locals of the I. L. G. W. U. in particular; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. hereby express its warmest appreciation to the American Federation of Labor, the locals of the International and all other factors who, financially and otherwise, made the success of the general strike of the New York Joint Board possible.

Your Committee with unanimous approval recommends the adoption of this resolution. In the history of our International, the strike of 1929 ranks as one of its great turning points. Your Committee is happy to report to the delegates, as its final word on the New York cloak industry, that the Union has been rebuilt, stronger and more determined than ever before. It is again able to control the trade. It has regained the confidence of its members. It has won the respect of its employers. It may now be expected to go on to ever greater victories.

But great as the accomplishment of the 1929 cloak strike was, there remain heavy tasks before the International. We feel confident with the memory of this great strike still fresh in our minds, that with such leadership as President Schlesinger and Acting President David Dubinsky, the International will conquer all difficulties, eliminate all obstacles and emerge a powerful factor in every

market of the nation. When this is accomplished, it will be remembered that the New York Cloak strike of 1929, under the sterling leadership of our President Benjamin Schlesinger and Acting President Dubinsky, paved the way for future victories.

VICE-PRESIDENT DUBINSKY: I have several times heard myself praised for what I have done. I am afraid that I might have trouble afterwards as a result of all this talk about my energy.

I don't believe that the Committee has been fair. If anyone deserves any credit for my services to the International, it is the Cutters' Union, Local No. 10. They have sacrificed a lot by permitting me to go to the International. During the past nine months, my salary has been paid by Local No. 10, and the interests of the cutters have been neglected by me. Therefore, I think that Local No. 10 should at least be mentioned in the report.

DELEGATE A. KIRZNER (Joint Board of Toronto): Canada, I believe, has been neglected. The members there had done what they could to raise funds for the strike.

PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER: I assure you the omission was not intentional.

DELEGATE FANNIA M. COHN: I want to make a correction, or an addition to that part of the report where the Committee refers to the spirit of 1910, 1916, and 1919. It should have mentioned the marvelous spirit of 1909. I refer here, Brother President, to the waist makers struggle of 1909, when 20,000 young women went on strike. It is appropriate to mention this event at this Convention because on November 23, 1929, the Dressmakers' Union, Local No. 22, jointly with the Educational Department of our International celebrated the twentieth anniversary of that historic struggle that distinguished itself with courage, enthusiasm, and with the highest expression of idealism.

DELEGATE STOLLER: As one of the Committee, I appreciate the favorable

mention they gave my service in the past general strike. However, I would like at this Convention, before it adjourns, to give favorable mention to the rank and file who so actively were engaged in helping to make the strike a success. I would want to insert in this comment the service of Brother Belson on the picketing committee, Harry Chancer, one of the district members of the Brownsville Division, Brother Max Cohen, of Local No. 35, and also Caesar Compen who was also the head of a committee.

**DELEGATE KIRTZMAN:** I fully agree with the contents of this report. There are just a few names I should like to see

included. They are: Harry Fried, Charles Jacobson, and Samuel Fremed of Local No. 23.

**DELEGATE FEINBERG:** We have omitted the names of many officers who are serving in the Cloakmakers' Union. However, I want to state that we will be glad to incorporate in the further remarks about the work of the General Executive Board, such names as have been mentioned here.

The motion to adopt the report of the Committee up to that point was carried amid applause.

The Convention adjourned at five o'clock.

## Eighth Day—Tuesday Morning Session

Cleveland, Ohio—December 10, 1929

The convention was called to order at 9:30 by President Schlesinger.

Secretary Baroff read the following telegrams and communications received since the adjournment of the session Monday afternoon.

New York, N. Y.

Abraham Baroff, International Convention, Cleveland, Ohio:

We are convinced that with the co-operation of all the forces constituting our beloved International, the forthcoming General Strike of the Dressmakers is certain of success. Congratulations and greetings to all delegates.

MORRIS HOROWITZ, JOE BROWNER,

MAX MOSKOWITZ, LOUIS LEVINE.  
MEMBERS LOCAL 22.

New York, N. Y.

Abraham Baroff, International Convention, Cleveland, Ohio:

The Dressmakers of New York are thrilled by your unanimous approval of the General Strike resolution. Congratulations.

WM. GREENBERG, MORRIS MACKERER,  
MEMBERS OF LOCAL 22.

New York, N. Y.

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Convention, Cleveland, Ohio:

The National Executive Committee, Young People's Socialist League, extends its greetings and well wishes to assembled delegates.

You may rest assured that we will be available for any aid we may be called upon to render in your impending struggle with employers.

FRANK MANNING, Director.

MORRIS NOVIK, Chairman.

New York, N. Y.

Delegates Twentieth Convention, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings and best wishes to all delegates of our International. May all your efforts be crowned with success.

SAM MASSOWER, Local 10.

New York, N. Y.

Abraham Baroff, International Convention, Cleveland, Ohio:

We are proud of the achievements of the present convention and hope you will wind up the good work by adopting the resolutions calling for the referendum and proportional representation.

AARON DASHKOFF, JACOB COOPER,  
Members of Local 22.

Los Angeles, Calif.

Convention, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, Ohio:

Greetings, congratulations on your past accomplishments and success to your future undertakings.

LOUIS PINKOVSKY.



Dec. 9, 1929.

B. Schlesinger, President,  
International Ladies' Garment Workers'  
Union Convention, Cleveland, Ohio:

Having been deprived by illness of the privilege to address your Convention, I wish to ask you to convey to delegates my sincerest greetings and heartfelt felicitations upon the accomplishments of the organization within the last several months. It isn't necessary for me to tell them what your own courage, tenacity and very defiance of death have accomplished. I hope that you will preside over many, many conventions to come and that the International once risen from the stupor of Communism and apathy will continue to reconquer all old positions and add new ones for the benefit and the happiness of the workers and the glory of the organization.

B. C. VLADECK.

New York, N. Y.

Abraham Baroff, International Convention,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

Adoption of General Strike and separate Dress Joint Board resolutions sponsored by Local 22 hailed with unanimous approval and enthusiasm of members. Your militancy, solidarity and class loyalty already made this the greatest Convention in our history. Our congratulations to yourself, our beloved President Schlesinger and all delegates.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Dressmakers' Union Local 22, I. L. G. W. U.

New York, N.Y.

Secretary, Convention, International Ladies'  
Garment Workers' Union, Cleveland, O.:

Please propose convention following: Resolved that the President of the United States be petitioned immediately to enlist aid Governor of Porto Rico, Hon. Theodore Roosevelt, and Hon. William Green and Senator Santiago Iglesias, securing next Porto Rican Legislature's strict enforcement minimum wage law, stopping prevailing shameful exploitation helpless womanhood of Porto Rico, who are paid twenty-five cents per diem with ruinous effects for American life standards arising therefrom.

PEDRO J. BIAGGI,

242 West 123rd Street, New York City.

New York, N. Y.

Abraham Baroff, International Convention,  
Cleveland, Ohio:

We rejoice in common with the rest of the members of our large International family in the splendid accomplishments of the present Convention. Your decision for a general strike and separate Joint Board in dress industry has given us new hope and inspiration. With competent leadership our general strike is certain of success. Con-

gratulations to our valiant leader, Benjamin Schlesinger and all delegates.

WORKERS MODERN DRESS,  
27 West 35th St.,

Committee: Isidore Farblash, Chairman,  
Benny Katz, Harry Nadler, Joe Turefsky.

President Schlesinger appointed the following members to escort Comrade Morris Hilquit from the hotel to the meeting: Vice-Presidents Julius Hochman, Morris Bial's, Luigi Antonini, Joseph Breslau, Harry Wander.

Vice-President Greenberg, secretary of the Committee on Law read the amended report on proportional representation at conventions as follows:

## Proportional Representation

Your Committee received Resolutions Nos. 6, 16, 19, 20, 21, the Resolves of which read:

## Resolution No. 6

Introduced by Delegation of Local No. 10, New York.

RESOLVED, that Section 3 of Article 2, of our Constitution be amended to read:

Local Unions with a membership of 100 or less to be represented at conventions by one delegate; local unions with a membership up to 500 to be represented by two delegates; local unions with a membership up to 1000 to be represented by three delegates; local unions with a membership of more than 1000, to be entitled to one delegate for every 1000 members or portion thereof.

## Resolution No. 16

Introduced by Boston Delegation.

Resolved, that the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. adopt a plan, which shall become part of our Constitution, whereby representation at conventions, joint boards or district councils shall be on a more equitable or more proportional basis than exists at present; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the new provisions shall have representation on the proportional membership of the local unions.

## Resolution No. 19

Introduced by Dressmakers' Union Local No. 22, New York.

RESOLVED, that the 20th Biennial Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. amend Article

2, Section 3, of the Constitution of the I. L. G. W. U. to read:

Local Unions with a membership of 300 or less to be represented at conventions by two delegates; local unions with a membership up to 1000 to be represented by 3 delegates; local unions with a membership of more than 1000 to be entitled to one additional delegate for every thousand members or portion thereof.

The voting strength of each local delegation at the convention, or any and all questions, shall equal the number of members it represents, equally apportioned between the delegates of each delegation.

**Resolution No. 20**

Introduced by Delegation of Local No. 35, New York.

RESOLVED that the 20th Bi-Annual Convention of the International modify its constitution pertaining to the representation at International conventions, so that it serves the best interests of the members of our International.

**Resolution No. 21**

Introduced by Local No. 9, New York.

RESOLVED that this, the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U., hereby amend the constitution of the International so as to grant the majority of the membership their full right of expression and representation.

**Resolution No. 84**

Introduced by Delegation of Local No. 2, New York.

RESOLVED, that Article 2, Section 3, be amended to read:

The representation to the conventions of the I. L. G. W. U. shall be computed on the following basis:

Local Unions with a membership of 250 or less, shall be represented at conventions by one delegate.

Local Unions with a membership up to 750 shall be entitled to one delegate for the first 250 and one additional delegate for the next 500, or at least one-fourth thereof.

Local Unions with a membership more than 750 shall be entitled to two (2) delegates for the first 750 and one additional delegate for each additional 700, or at least one-fourth thereof; be it further

RESOLVED, that Article 6, Section 2, shall also be amended to read as follows:

All joint boards consisting of locals, some having less than 1,000 members, and some having a membership more than 1,000; the representation to such joint boards shall be

based on the same representation as each local is entitled to the representation to the convention. However, in order to create an efficient and workable joint board the number of delegates representing the locals to the joint board shall be two-thirds of the representation that each local of the joint board is entitled to the Convention. A fraction of a delegate shall entitle the local to a full delegate.

Your Committee amends these resolutions to read:

That local unions, with a membership up to 100 shall be represented at conventions by one delegate; local unions, with a membership of more than 100 and up to 300, shall be represented by two delegates; local unions, with a membership of more than 300 and up to 1000, shall be represented by three delegates; local unions, with a membership of more than 1000, shall be entitled to one delegate for every additional thousand or portion thereof.

Your Committee recommends the adoption of this amendment.

PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER: I want to go on record as being totally opposed to this. I am definitely and irrevocably opposed to a recommendation that enables a delegate to represent only one member.

The motion to adopt the recommendation of the Committee was put to a vote and carried.

The Committee proceeded with the following:

At the Boston Convention in 1928, an amendment was made to Article XII, Section 5, which appears on the third page of "JUSTICE," of November 22nd, 1929.

Your Committee is of the opinion that because of the manifesto issued by the General Executive Board in December, 1928, and the pledge which followed in June, 1929, there is no need for such a pledge in our Constitution.

Our Committee, therefore, recommends that this section be stricken from our Constitution.

The section reads as follows:

"I, the undersigned, a member of Local No. \_\_\_\_\_ of the International Ladies' Garment

Workers' Union, and a candidate for office in the Union, hereby affirm that I am fully in accord with the aims, principles and policies of the International, and that I recognize the General Executive Board as the supreme authority within our International Union between conventions under our Constitution, and pledge myself to abide by all the orders, decisions, rules and regulations.

"I do further state that I do not hold membership or office in a dual union or in any other organization not constituted or functioning within the framework of the Constitution of the International and attempting to shape the policies of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union or any subordinate body of the same, or otherwise to usurp or interfere with the legitimate functions and rights of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, its subordinate bodies and its officers, and that I do not and will not support any such organization. I further expressly state that I recognize that the Communist (Workers') League and all other organizations, bodies or groups of persons acting under the direction of or in concert or sympathy with the said organizations come within the above definition of a dual union; that they are detrimental to and destructive of our Union and the trade union movement generally, and that their officers, members and sympathizers are not fit to serve in any official capacity in our locals, joint boards, the International Union or any other part of the trade union movement.

"I do hereby sincerely pledge my honor to perform the duties of my office as prescribed by the laws of this International Union and to bear true allegiance to the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. I will deliver to my successor in office all books, papers and other property of the Union that may be in my possession at the close of my official term. I will also deliver all property of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union to the General Executive Board upon demand. All this I solemnly promise with the full knowledge that to violate the pledge is to stamp myself as a man devoid of principle and destitute of honor.

"If found that I have signed this pledge falsely and thereby assumed office in the Union, I agree to waive my right to hold or continue in such office and my services in such a capacity shall automatically cease."

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Sign) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ledger No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

This was adopted by the Convention.

First Vice-President Ninfo, chairman of the Committee, continued the reading of the report:

Your Committee received Resolutions Nos. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 23, 82, the Resolves of which read:

#### Resolution No. 8

Introduced by New York Joint Board, Cloak, Skirt, Dress and Reefer Makers' Union.

RESOLVED, that the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. amend Sections 2, 3 and 4 of Article 3 of its Constitution, to read as follows:

Section No. 2—The President, General Secretary-Treasurer and General Executive Board shall be nominated at the convention and shall be elected by a referendum vote of all members of the I. L. G. W. U. The names of all nominees who receive a minimum of one-fourth of the votes cast by the convention shall appear on the ballot as candidates for the respective offices.

Section No. 3—The election shall be by ballot; those candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be considered elected. When there is but one candidate nominated for any office the election shall be by an "aye" and "nay" ballot.

The term of office for all general officers shall be for a period of two years and they shall hold their respective offices until their successors are duly elected and installed.

The referendum shall take place 30 days after adjournment of the convention.

Section No. 4—The convention shall elect a committee of 25 delegates representing the various ladies garment centers to conduct the referendum vote.

#### Resolution No. 9

Introduced by Local 10, New York.

RESOLVED, that the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. hereby adopt the referendum form of election and that names of candidates for members of the General Executive Board be submitted to the membership for popular vote, following the system of elections which prevails in local unions.

#### Resolution No. 10

Introduced by Local No. 9, New York.

RESOLVED, that the 20th Biennial Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. amend our constitution so as to provide that all general officers be elected by a referendum vote of the entire membership.

#### Resolution No. 11

Introduced by Boston delegation.

RESOLVED, that this Convention adopt

a law whereby our General President, General Secretary-Treasurer, and General Executive Board shall be nominated at the convention and be elected through a referendum vote by the members, and, be it further.

RESOLVED, that after such law is adopted, this 20th Biennial Convention proceed with nominations for General President, General Secretary-Treasurer, and General Executive Board, and the names of all such candidates nominated shall be submitted for election through a referendum vote by the membership of the I. L. G. W. U.

**Resolution No. 12**

Introduced by Local No. 3, New York.

RESOLVED, that the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. hereby amends Article 3, Sections 2, 3 and 4 of its constitution to read as follows:

Section 2—The President, General Secretary-Treasurer and members of the General Executive Board shall be elected by a referendum vote of all members of the I. L. G. W. U.

Section 3—The terms of office for all general officers shall be for a period of two years, and they shall hold their respective offices until their successors are duly elected and installed.

Section 4—The referendum for President and General Secretary-Treasurer and members of the General Executive Board shall take place not later than 30 days after the adjournment of the convention.

**Resolution No. 14**

Introduced by Dressmakers' Union, Local No. 22, New York.

RESOLVED, that the 20th Biennial Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. herewith amend Article No. 3, Sections 2, 3 and 4 of its constitution to read, to-wit:

Section 2—The President and General Secretary-Treasurer and General Executive Board shall be nominated at the Convention and elected by a referendum of all members of the I. L. G. W. U. The names of all those nominees who receive a minimum of one-fourth of the votes cast, shall appear on the ballot as candidates for President, General Secretary-Treasurer, and General Executive Board. 4

Section 3—The terms of office for all General Officers shall be for a period of two years, and they shall hold their respective offices until their successors are duly elected and installed.

Section 4—The referendum for President, General Secretary-Treasurer, and General Executive Board shall take place not later than 30 days after the adjournment of the convention. The referendum vote shall be

conducted by an Election Committee, consisting of 25 members, to be elected by the convention and is to include representatives from the various garment centers throughout the States.

**Resolution No. 16**

Introduced by delegation of Local No. 35, New York.

RESOLVED, that we, the representatives of Local 35 reaffirm the position of our Local and are again asking this Convention to amend Sections 2, 3, and 4 of Article III of the constitution of the International.

**Resolution No. 23**

Introduced by Local No. 80, Boston.

RESOLVED, that in the interests of democratic procedure in the affairs of the I. L. G. W. U., the 20th Convention of the International favor installation of the referendum system.

**Resolution No. 82**

Introduced by delegation of Local No. 2, New York.

RESOLVED, that Article 2, Section 3 shall be amended to read:

Sec. 2—The President, General Secretary-Treasurer and General Executive Board shall be nominated at the convention and elected by a referendum vote of all members of the I. L. G. W. U. The names of all nominees who receive twenty-five (25) votes at the convention shall appear on the ballot as candidates for the respective offices.

Sec. 3—The election shall be by ballot; those candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be considered elected. When there is but one candidate nominated for any office the election shall be an "aye" and "nay" ballot.

The term of office for all General Officers shall be for a period of two years, and they shall hold their respective offices until their successors are duly elected and installed.

The referendum shall take place thirty (30) days after the adjournment of the convention.

The convention shall elect a committee of twenty-five (25) delegates, representing the various ladies' garment centres, to carry through the referendum."

Your Committee in full earnestness and with a deep sense of responsibility arrived at the conclusion which we are herewith presenting to you.

We are conscious of the importance of this referendum. Our decision was



influenced by several considerations, foremost among them the promise made by our General Executive Board in its Manifesto to the members in New York in December, 1928, prior to the calling of the general strike in the cloak industry, and which was also included in the subsequent appeal issued by the General Executive Board in June, 1929, to the effect that "all reforms and resolutions in regard to representation at convention, the election of the highest officers of the International . . . , which have been proposed by some of our local unions are questions that can be settled only at the Convention and we are confident that they will be taken up by the Convention and settled to the satisfaction of the membership at large and for the benefit and welfare of our Union."

Our members accepted these promises enthusiastically and responded to the call of our General Officers to rejoin the Union. This was best illustrated by their return to the Union and later by their active participation in the election of delegates to this Convention. The attention and interest of our members were directed mainly to the question of referendum. The innumerable resolutions calling for a referendum introduced to this Convention, best demonstrates the will of our membership in this direction.

Our members were always proud of the democratic and idealistic principles upon which our International Union is founded. Changes made in the provisions of our constitution always illustrated the progressive needs of our organization. All this time our membership also feels that the request for a referendum is indicative of our traditional attitude toward democracy.

It is the opinion of your Committee that the enactment of a law in our constitution, at this time, calling for a referendum, would stimulate our members to a greater interest in the work and functions of our Union and would also solidify our forces and increase our activities, and instill more confidence and devotion in our General Officers and in the General Executive Board, which is

the highest body in our Union between convention and convention.

Your Committee, in deliberating on the resolution calling for a referendum, heard the arguments advanced by a large number of delegates representing many of our local unions all over the country. Your Committee was greatly impressed by the arguments in favor of the referendum.

We, therefore, recommend that the question of referendum be granted by this Convention and further recommend the adoption of Resolution No. 8, with the following change in the Resolve:

Section II—The President, General Secretary-Treasurer and the G. E. B. shall be nominated at the convention and shall be elected by a referendum of all members of the I. L. G. W. U. The names of all nominees, who receive a minimum of TWENTY-FIVE of the votes cast by the convention, representing at least five locals from three different cities, shall appear on the ballot as candidates for the respective offices.

Section IV—The President shall appoint a committee of twenty-five delegates, representing the various ladies' garment centers to conduct the referendum vote.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** There are a couple of exceptions to this report which I want to make. First, that the word "all" be omitted from the sentence dealing with the nomination of the General Secretary-Treasurer and G. E. B. Second, that you consider the inadvisability of having a committee of 25 going from one center to another. This is far too expensive a proposition. I suggest that a smaller committee should be considered.

**VICE-PRESIDENT ANTONINI:** As far as the referendum is concerned, the delegates from Local No. 89 would vote for it as submitted by the Committee. I have kept in touch with the results of the referendum as conducted by the Men's Clothing Workers Union only to reach the conclusion that it does not really serve the interests of democracy. The membership at large is not very much interested in the referendum at the present time. The membership wants better conditions in the shops. I urge at least one change in the resolution, namely,

that a referendum should be called at least ninety days after the convention, so that it should not interfere with the success of the prospective dress strike.

**VICE-PRESIDENT GREENBERG** made the following statement on the question of the referendum: In connection with the referendum for officers of our International, there is a majority and minority report. The minority report is made by Nathan Solomon, of Local 26, Cleveland, and Harry Greenberg, of Local No. 91, New York. I wish to state here for the minority that we still hold our opinion against the referendum, for we believe that the referendum is against the best interests of our membership and will surely not serve the purpose of democracy, as intended by the majority. However, in order to facilitate matters and avoid confusion, we agree to withdraw our minority report and permit the majority of the Committee to report for the Committee as a whole.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** There is no use arguing the question, whether there will or will not be referendum. You should rather confine yourselves to a discussion how to carry out this referendum.

You seem to be almost unanimous on the question. We had on this Committee delegates from practically every center and almost every local. We heard yesterday on the floor of the convention that there was a minority report and then it was announced that it would be withdrawn. Why argue further?

**DELEGATE NAGLER:** I would like to make an amendment to this resolution, that these twenty-five delegates should be appointed from the different localities existing in our International.

**VICE-PRESIDENT HOCHMAN:** I would like to make an amendment, that in each city each local shall select a certain number of representatives who shall supervise the election of general officers, and that all the expenses shall be paid by these locals. They together would constitute one committee to supervise elections.

**DELEGATE HATTAB (Local No. 66):** I have a substitute motion to offer, that the head of each delegation represented here, shall be appointed by their respective delegations to be a member of the election and objection committee, and that the delegates of each center shall meet together at an appointed day, and shall constitute the election and objection committee so far as that center is concerned, and that all expenses shall be paid by the International, not by the locals.

**DELEGATE FREMED:** The recommendation of our committee is very clear. The Law Committee, consisting of fifteen or sixteen members, felt that the appointment should be made by none but the President. The Law Committee has all confidence in the President's ability to appoint this committee. We are not afraid of reflections being cast against the honesty and integrity of those to be appointed by the President to supervise this election.

**VICE-PRESIDENT HALPERIN:** If the President doesn't want to assume the responsibility, then I think that the suggestion that the locals appoint the members to constitute the committee is appropriate.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** This General Executive Board functions until a new one is elected. It should, therefore, designate a day when elections should take place all over the country; and have the results come into the international office.

**VICE-PRESIDENT BRESLAU:** I am proud to say that I was the originator of the referendum at the last convention I voted for it then and I will vote for it today. If we want our Union to continue and if we want our membership to grow; if we want our membership to be under the impression that we are always open and above board with them, then we have got to give them the referendum.

I would not like to see the General Executive Board appoint this committee of twenty-five because it may cre-

ate an impression among the membership that the Convention has accepted the referendum, but the same members who are running for re-election would conduct the election. Therefore, I believe that the recommendation of the Committee is in place, that the twenty-five members should be appointed by the President with the consent of this Convention.

**DELEGATE SOLOMON** (Local No. 26): As one of the Committee on Law I would like to give you my position in speaking against the referendum.

I feel that the way we are situated in the cloak industry in this country the referendum is not an expression of democracy, but is a species of autocracy. Since eighty per cent of the cloak industry is located in the city of New York, the so-called minority will never get a chance to be heard.

We have spoken often of the rehabilitation of our Union, and rightly so, I think, but I do not think that Philadelphia could have been represented at this Convention had the referendum gone through in 1925, for not only would the Communists have had a few vice-presidents, but they would have dominated our whole Union; there would not have been anybody to oust them.

I am not going to vote for the referendum at the present time, for I feel it is not a question of democracy.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** I want to interrupt this discussion to give Vice-President Dubinsky the floor so that he may present to you a matter which has come up since the session adjourned yesterday afternoon.

**VICE-PRESIDENT DUBINSKY:** Mr. President and Delegates: This morning I was called to the telephone from New York, and told that at the conference which was held last Thursday in Washington, called by President Hoover in connection with his present activities to stabilize the economic conditions of this country, and which was participated in by the most important business men of the country, the President appointed a committee of

seventy-two to devise means for stabilizing business and that amongst them is a gentleman by the name of Jesse Herff, President of Stern and Herff—a non-union children's cloak manufacturer in the city of New York.

It is very surprising that the President of the United States, in calling a conference for the purpose of stabilizing business, should appoint as a representative of a billion dollar industry, a man who exploits his workers, and who has no responsibility whatsoever in the industry—a man who tries to take advantage of conditions every day in the year.

I believe, Mr. President, that this Convention should ask the officers to communicate with the proper authorities in Washington—with President Hoover or Secretary Davis—and draw their attention to the fact that this appointment is resented by our International Union, and that it is resented by all of the organized factors that have made extraordinary effort to stabilize the cloak industry during the last year; that we recommend he appoint a man who stands for collective bargaining, a man who has at least helped to eliminate the sweat shop conditions from our industry.

I therefore move, that the President communicate with the proper authorities at Washington to see whether President Hoover cannot change his appointee from a non-union, sweat shop employer, to one who stands for collective bargaining.

The motion was seconded, put to a vote and carried.

The debate on the Law report continued.

**VICE-PRESIDENT HOCHMAN:** This question of election of officers by a referendum vote was one of the chief issues that came up before the last convention, held in Boston. At that time I opposed this change and gave my reasons for opposing it. Since that convention I have had occasion to learn more about the workings of the referendum in various organizations. I am now more than ever convinced that the

present system of our International of electing general officers at conventions is the most progressive, most democratic and serves best the interests of a militant, fighting union like ours.

However, a situation has developed at this Convention, which I am certain, in the event of the defeat of the referendum, will be carried back to our various local unions, especially our locals of New York, and become a stirring political issue, which in my judgment will cause a great deal of disturbance and check the progress we are now making in rebuilding our Union. Of the two difficulties facing us, I consider the adoption of the referendum as the lesser one and I therefore decided, in spite of my convictions on this question, to vote for the referendum. I shall do my utmost to make the referendum a workable instrument in our Union.

**DELEGATE BIALIS:** I know there is not much use in my wasting time in talking against this matter for you have already made up your minds on it. But I am sure that my opinion agrees with what ninety per cent of the out-of-town members wish and I want to go on record as favoring Delegate Nagler's amendment.

The only thing left for me to do now, and I am going to ask the President to be so kind as to help me to carry this proposition through, is this: In accordance with a decision adopted yesterday we are to have fifteen vice-presidents, nine from New York and six from out-of-town. I would suggest that when you speak of out-of-town centers they should be determined by centers where they have either a joint board, or at least three locals, and that such city should be given preference on the General Executive Board.

**VICE-PRESIDENT MAX AMDUR:** Regarding the recommendation of the Committee for the appointment of a committee of twenty-five, I believe that it is too many, but on the other hand, I feel that neither this Convention, nor the General Executive Board, nor the local unions can supervise these elections. Consequently we must have a committee

electd by this Convention. My suggestion is to have a committee of eleven which shall be in communication with all of the locals of our International Union and supervise these elections.

**DELEGATE FANNIE SHAPIRO** (Local No. 62): I suggest that the President and Secretary should not be elected by referendum, but that they be elected by the convention, and that the other officers be elected by referendum.

**DELEGATE ROBERT TREUB** (Local No. 73): I am in favor of the referendum because as an officer of the Boston Joint Board and as Chairman of Local No. 73, I had much experience during the past two years and know the troubles and difficulties with which the Union has been confronted. The referendum method must be adopted, because the members want it and they have been promised that it will be adopted.

**DELEGATE HATTAB:** I have heard the recommendation of the Committee that twenty-five men shall be appointed by you, but I question the wisdom of that. I want to put a question, through you, to the Chairman of that Committee: Since we must have all of the centers represented and voted upon in one day, since you only designate twenty-five persons, and since out of those twenty-five you must have at least ten to cover Boston, Cleveland, St. Louis, and Chicago, which would leave fifteen persons for New York, and since the election in every local is going to be held on the same day, how is it physically possible for this committee of twenty-five to supervise the election of all of the locals?

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** It appears that while there is very little difference among the delegates to this Convention on the question of the referendum—most of you seem to be in favor of it—there are differences as to procedure. I will therefore refer this item back to the Committee to formulate a method of procedure.

We are now going to vote on the question of the referendum. The mo-



tion is that the President, Secretary and General Executive Board shall be nominated at the convention and elected by referendum of the membership of the locals of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

The motion to adopt that part of the Committee's report was put to a vote and carried—amid great applause.

Comrade Morris Hillquit was at this point escorted into the hall and the members arose and applauded.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER** introduced Mr. Samuel Mintz, a representative of the Freie Arbeiter Stimme—who greeted the Convention in the name of this publication.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** We have with us one who not only is known in this country and all over the world as the most outstanding of Socialists and trade union leaders, but one who has done for our organization more than any one here at this Convention or any one outside of it.

He was for three years a member of the Board of Arbitration, which was established in our industry in the year of 1910, at the time when the cloakmakers' strike in the City of New York was settled by Mr. Brandeis, now a Justice of the Supreme Court.

Then he became legal adviser to our organization. We had strikes in the cloakmakers' industry, lockouts, negotiations with the employers by which strikes were averted, as you will recall, in the year 1915, when the Council of Reconciliation was appointed by the Mayor of New York, and of which Felix Adler was chairman. I shall never forget the argumentation of Comrade Hillquit before that Council. We had all done our best to present our case, but no one was able to do it in such an able manner, no one was able to make them really understand our problems as our dear Brother, Comrade Hillquit.

In the strike of 1916, there were moments when we thought we were all lost. We couldn't devise any ways, any plans how to continue our strike. In those dark days, Comrade Hillquit came to our

aid with his resourceful mind, his confidence and hope in us, and we again became active and enthusiastic, and able to go on with our work of carrying on the strike. As you recall, it was a grand victory.

So it was also during the strike of 1929, on the second of July. I want to tell you there is no important document sent out by our organization that Brother and Comrade Hillquit is not only consulted on but must obtain his approval.

You can imagine then how much pleasure I have in being able to present to you the man who is working with us, and who has been working with all the officers in such a close manner. Comrade Hillquit is not only a part of the international, but he is a part of the labor movement of this country and of all the world. Many of you have perhaps read his books on the labor and Socialist movement. All of you know the great part he occupies in the international movement.

I take pleasure in presenting to you Comrade Morris Hillquit of our organization.

The audience arose and applauded enthusiastically.

**MORRIS HILLQUIT:** Brother President, Delegates and Friends. It had been my hope to be able to be with you at the opening of your convention and to open it with prayer. Unfortunately, that proved to be impossible for me, owing to a rather heavy cold, and I am glad that I can be with you at least at the closing of your convention for the benediction.

As I was coming to this convention my mind reverted to the last two conventions that I had the good fortune of attending, and I was comparing the last three conventions, including this one, in their meanings to the history of your organization, the atmosphere in which they met, and the tasks that confronted them. These three conventions reflect three different and distinct epochs in the history of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

The convention in Philadelphia four years ago represents probably the most tragic chapter in your history. It was a convention of surrender. It was a convention in which every one of us, who had been with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in the many years past, who had taken part in its struggles and rejoiced in its successes, felt that it meant a very heavy hour in our lives. We knew and we felt that this great organization, built up in many, many years of struggle and privations, was being turned over to the elements of disruption and destruction, and yet there was a certain fatality about it. It was as if we were propelled by the forces of a fatal destiny to step into the abyss. The membership had in the course of some time preceding that convention, been invaded by a spirit of unrest, of recklessness, a compelling destructive force that swept everything before it. As a matter of fact, at that convention you surrendered the management of your organization and the organization as a whole into the hands of the Communists' destructive forces, and as we had foreseen, they immediately took advantage of the occasion for their nefarious, destructive work.

As I think back of it, it seems to me like an invasion of savages into a civilized country. I am thinking of the fall of old Rome. There was a great and powerful empire, built up in the course of centuries by laborious work in all fields of human endeavor. They had developed a marvelous system of government and jurisprudence. They had developed an exquisite literature and art. Its people were cultured and refined. The city had conquered all of the known world at the time, and having achieved the highest glory and success, the population of Rome became complacent; its moral fibre was weakened, and then a horde of savages invaded it. Savages possessing nothing but brutal physical force, devoid of culture, devoid of civilization, took possession of Rome.

They turned its magnificent temples into stables. They destroyed its palaces. They broke up its marvelous sta-

tuary into fragments which they used for the erection of miserable hovels. Within a comparatively short time the glory that was Rome turned into an ashheap. Rome became a habitation of barbarians. No trace was left of the old civilization and it took many, many centuries to bring the city back to a state of civilization.

And so, in a minor way, it was in your International. In the course of many, many years the organization had developed a force, physical and moral. It had a membership which was harmonious and effective in its struggles. It had won many victories. It had made very substantial progress in the direction of improving the conditions of its workers. It boasted of a large treasury. It had many powerful institutions, headquarters, buildings. It had achieved a system of collective bargaining which was the admiration of the labor movement throughout the United States. It had developed pioneer institutions such as the Joint Board of Sanitary Council, the Unemployment Insurance Fund, the Label Department, which held great hope for the future of the workers engaged in the various industries which you represent. It had become one of the great and powerful members of the American labor movement, and then, at the height of our success, our leadership became somewhat complacent, our membership somewhat weakened in its moral, and then we had this invasion of the destructive forces of Communism.

They took hold of the Union and they destroyed all that you had built. In about a year and a half of management they succeeded in nullifying all that went to make up the power of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. Its membership was halved. Its treasury was depleted; its collective agreements disrupted; its great institutions abolished. The Union, after a short reign, was physically, organizationally, financially, and what is worst of all, morally bankrupt.

Then we met again in Boston about two years later. We were there, come together to survey the ruins, the de-

struction wrought by the Communist administration. We had before us a building leveled to the ground. We had before us nothing but stray, scattered material with which to recommence the work of ten or fifteen years earlier.

We surveyed the field. We laid plans for rebuilding, and now at the end of two years, or thereabouts, we come back again to survey our situation. And we find, much to the exultation, not only of your organization, but to all of the progressive minded men and women in this country, that you have made tremendous progress. You have every right and justification to view this interval since the last convention as one of triumph. The debris had been cleared away, the ground has been leveled again, the foundation for a new edifice has been laid, the framework of the edifice has been erected. What remains yet is the systematic work of completing the building so that when you meet in your next convention, you will have it before you in all its former perfection and glory, and better and stronger and more complete than ever before.

Now my friends, this is a tremendous task. It is easy to destroy; it is difficult to build. Any brute force can destroy, but the work of construction, the work of building is a work that calls for patience, care, and thoughtfulness. It is a slow work, but it is a work that endures.

To build anew, we need a number of things. We need the material, first of all. You can't build out of thin air. We need the workers to build. And we need, above all, the architect who can design the new building and lay the plans and fix all the details of the new work; a man of genius who can visualize a new, complete, great and beautiful edifice out of nothing, a man who can look at the waste, at the void, and in his imagination fill it with a beautiful structure to endure for ages.

Fortunately, my friends, you have all these requirements. You have the material out of which to construct the new

building. There are still more than a hundred thousand, perhaps two hundred thousand men and women engaged in the various branches of your industry who are there to be organized into one powerful, harmonious organization, irresistably marching forward. That is your material.

You have the workers. As I look upon you here and recognize at least half of your faces as men and women who in both good and bad times have given the best that is in them to this great and noble task of building up an organization among your workers, who have come back as soon as the road was clear again to this task of theirs, I say that you have the workers.

And you are particularly fortunate in having the architect in the person of your President, Benjamin Schlesinger. I don't want you to believe that we have organized between the two of us a sort of mutual admiration society and that we are under a contract to laud each other before you and other audiences. I confess very frankly that I have always had a weak spot for Ben Schlesinger, in good times, in bad, when he was in office and out of office. I have always been proud of his personal friendship and I want to say this: There are among us occasionally persons who work with us, who live with us, whose good qualities we appreciate to some extent, whose peculiarities irritate us at times, but whose greatness we do not appreciate until a moment comes when an extraordinary genius, an extraordinary power is called into play, and then suddenly we realize the man or woman with whom we have had daily contact and daily converse is not just an ordinary worker but a great genius and hero. I want to say that when your organization was in its worst crisis and when it was down so low that the most optimistic of us despaired of its recovery, then and then only it was made apparent what a genius, what tremendous talent, what endless devotion and sense of self-sacrifice your President had in taking hold of the situation at that darkest hour, and coming back to you at this time, delivering to you again a live,

functioning, promising, organization. (Applause.)

Great leadership also consists in developing associates, and that is another thing which your President has demonstrated his ability to do. He has been brought back into activity and he has had the marvelous co-operation of the best men among you. Oh! I wouldn't attempt to name them all. I suppose I might mention David Dubinsky (applause) because he has done so much. But there are others, scores of them, whom you know and whom he has animated with a new energy, a new enthusiasm for your cause.

Now, my friends I do not doubt at all but that the program which you have laid down in this convention will be carried out to the letter; I do not doubt at all that when you next meet you will come with at least one hundred thousand members (applause), with a restoration of all the gains you made in the course of your past struggles. The question will be: "What then" and I want to close with a few words on that subject.

My friends, a labor union cannot have—should not have—a final goal. It should never set a point at which its desires will be satisfied; a point at which it could rest quietly on its laurels. If I am to make any criticism of the management of your organization in the past it is just this: That a few years ago when you reached the height of your power and strength the leadership became complacent.

Remember that you are here to fight, and to fight at all times until all of the legitimate demands of the workers represented by you have been gained, until full justice has been done them, until they enjoy their full and legitimate share of life's blessings and of the wealth of the country. (Applause.)

There is just one more point that I should like you to remember and that is, that while you are primarily organized for the benefit of workers in your particular industry, and while your direct business is to improve the material conditions of the workers in your in-

dustry, you are not that alone. You are infinitely more than that. You are an organic part of that great labor movement, economic, political and cultural that covers the entire civilized world and that is today the one great force in history making for a new and better world. It is just because the labor movement represents also this aspect which holds out a new hope to the entire world, this idealistic aspect, that the labor movement is the only cohesive, international, world-wide element, having one objective, one goal and marching towards it through its various battalions in the various countries, but marching always onward and always in the direction of social progress, always in the direction of emancipation of mankind.

It is because of that that so many men and women outside of your direct ranks are so very much attached to your movement. I hope that when the time comes that you have reconquered your former strength, that you are going out for new conquests and to develop new powers, that you will bear in mind that the spiritual side of your movement, your soul, your idealism, is at least just as important as your immediate struggles.

I always was proud of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union as a leader and pioneer in the labor movement of the United States. The labor movement as a whole, in this country, unfortunately is not as yet as progressive and therefore, as powerful as it is in other countries, but there are spots within that movement which form an exception and which are therefore called to spiritual leadership and I have always been proud of the spirit of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in that direction and in that sense.

I hope, my friends, that you as leaders of the organization and of the movement represented by it will at all times hold tight, not only your solidarity, not only your courage, but also your idealism, your vision of a greater, better, saner, nobler world for all mankind.



**DELEGATE FEINBERG** (Local No. 2): I move that this Convention go on record extending its hearty thanks and appreciation to Comrade Hillquit for addressing this convention—delivering one of the most brilliant and instructive addresses this Convention—delivering to a labor organization, and that this address be printed in pamphlet form and distributed among all members of our International.

The motion was seconded by acclamation and passed unanimously.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER** (Addressing Mr. Hillquit): Comrade Hillquit, I want to refer to that libel case which was instituted by you against the so-called editors or rather the "schnorers" of the Communist party.

First of all, they are all dead as far as our organization is concerned—at least as far as the cloakmakers' union in New York is concerned. We thought that the less you talk about them here or outside of conventions or meetings, the better it will be, the more peacefully will they die, and the sooner forgotten.

We thought that by letting you go on with the libel case, it would, perhaps, mean bringing new life into them. Going on with that criminal libel case, which I am sure, from what I have heard from lawyers, would be won, could give them an excuse to go on with new "schnoring" business, making collections for their papers, for their editors, and so forth. I therefore present a resolution to this convention which was unanimously adopted. Although you are the adviser of our union, this time I could advise you that we think we have acted very wisely; and we certainly expect you, Comrade Hillquit, to act in accordance with the spirit in which this resolution was presented, and the spirit in which it was adopted. If you do that I will present the motion which was made by Brother Feinberg.

**MORRIS HILLQUIT**: That would be a sort of conditional vote. I'll say this, comrades. I saw this resolution earlier in the morning as I came into the hall, and I sincerely want to thank you for

taking the matter up, for expressing your opinion, for giving me your advice. A saying has it that a good teacher learns from his pupils. I think it may be modified by saying, A good lawyer learns from his clients. I am perfectly willing and ready to take good advice, particularly from good friends, and what I will promise you will be to give this serious consideration. I shall do that.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER**: Delegate Feinberg will proceed with the Committee on Officers' Report. The New York Dress Industry.

**DELEGATE FEINBERG**: As stated in the first part of our report, there is a great task confronting the International. The dress industry of New York is larger than the cloak industry and its workers are in a worse condition than the cloakmakers were after the Communistic misrule. We commend highly the General Executive Board under the leadership of President Schlesinger for its decision to organize and prepare for a general strike in the dress industry.

We are confident that the preliminary campaign under the general supervision of the Joint Board, of which Brother Isidore Nagler is the General Manager, and Vice-President Julius Hochman, manager of the dress division, and who are assisted in this great undertaking by Vice-Presidents Luigi Antonini and Joseph Breslau, Joseph Spielman, David Fruhling and many others, will prove successful.

We know from the results of the New York Cloakmakers' strike what our Union can achieve under the leadership of President Schlesinger and David Dubinsky. We therefore heartily approve the decision of the General Executive Board and of this Convention to call a general strike in the dress industry. We are confident that the outcome of that strike will result in the re-establishment of our New York Dress Unions.

We are pleased that as a result of the dress campaign, the more responsible employers in the dress industry

have already realized that the International is determined to again organize the industry, no matter what the sacrifice may be. We believe that the manufacturers will realize the gravity of the situation and hope that there may be a desire on their part to avoid costly strikes.

Your Committee had before it Resolution No. 3, introduced by the delegation of Local No. 35, the Resolve which reads:

#### Resolution No. 3

RESOLVED, that this Convention decide on the creation of a special fund which should be used toward the inevitable strike of the dressmakers of New York.

Your Committee appreciates the importance of adequate financial support to a New York dressmakers' strike. The Convention has already authorized a number of additional strikes and organization campaigns, and we feel certain the General Executive Board will leave no stone unturned to find the means to finance these efforts. Yet so important is the outcome of the New York dressmakers' strike and the other proposed campaigns that your Committee recommends that in the event of a financial emergency, the General Executive Board shall have the power to assess the membership of the International one-half day's pay to the end that these organizations and strike efforts may be brought to a victorious conclusion.

Your Committee, in examining the work done by our officers in New York, wishes to commend them for their co-operation in the rehabilitation of the other organizations of the International in that city. In the strike of Local No. 66, of which Leon Hattab is manager, and Nathan Reisel is secretary, as well as of Local No. 41, of which J. Halperin is manager-secretary, the general and local officers gave all the assistance possible. We find that in the work of Local No. 38, the ladies' custom tailors, the general officers together with Boris Drasin, manager of the local, and the other local officers, are doing every-

thing in their power to organize the trade and strengthen our organization. The general officers were also of assistance to Local No. 91 of which Vice-President Harry Greenberg is manager, and which is now looking forward to the establishment of a 100% control in its trade.

Your Committee, in examining the report of the General Executive Board, found a very interesting chapter on the Raincoat Makers' Union, Local No. 20. This local had an agreement with their employers on the basis of week work and scale of wages. In 1928, the manufacturers attempted to impose upon the raincoat makers in New York the system of piece-work, the forty-two-hour week and a 10% decrease in wages. The raincoat makers emerged triumphant from this struggle. The employers were compelled to withdraw their demands and in addition to this, to return to the raincoat makers the wage cut of from 6 to 8 per cent, which they had succeeded in wresting from them in January, 1928.

In charge of that campaign were Vice-President David Gingold, manager of the local, Samuel Friedman, chairman, and Meyer Pollnaky, Secretary. They further evidenced their conception of workers' solidarity by greatly aiding, during the past year, with man-power and money, their fellow trade workers in Boston. They have since constantly kept in touch with the Boston Local and lent them moral and financial aid. Nor should it be forgotten that they contributed liberally toward the New York cloak strike.

#### Other Markets

Your Committee read with interest that portion of the report which deals with organization of cloak and dressmakers in cities other than New York. We recommend to the incoming General Executive Board that without any delay, they make every effort possible to strengthen and restore the organization of the International throughout the United States and Canada.

We know that the workers in all cen-

ters are ready to respond to the call of our leaders. They have been inspired by the striking victory of our International in the City of New York. We have every reason to believe that President Schlesinger and the General Executive Board will find a ready response from the unorganized workers in our trades in the various cities.

We recommend that our officers start a campaign in the new markets which have sprung up during the last few years and where there is not, and never has been an organization. From the conference that we have had with Brother Schlesinger, we feel confident that the possibilities of organizing those centers are very great.

#### Cleveland

Your Committee read with satisfaction the part of the report pertaining to Cleveland. Your Committee feels that it can with pride boast of the unflinching loyalty Cleveland workers have displayed during the dark days in the life of our International. Our International and Local Unions could always rely on the full support of our Cleveland membership. The Cleveland members proved themselves a bulwark against destruction and disruption and are a credit not only to our International, but to the entire labor movement of our country.

An instance of this was the promptness with which they subscribed to our Reconstruction Bond Issue. When Vice-President Hochman visited Cleveland to explain the strike situation in New York, at a meeting addressed by him, by Charles Kreindler, Abraham Katovsky and Louis Friend, the Cleveland cloakmakers decided to tax themselves with a day's wages for the New York strikers. Within a few days after that decision, the Cleveland organization forwarded an amount equivalent to one day's pay to our International. Had this strike continued, we are confident that the Cleveland cloakmakers would have been a constant source of assistance. As stated by the General Executive Board, they have been able for the ninth time to renew their collective agreements with their employers, and with steady vigor

and intelligence guard the interests of the membership.

Your Committee expresses gratitude and admiration to the officers of the Cleveland locals and Joint Board, namely Chas. Kreindler, manager, A. Goldstein, sec.-treas., Abraham Katovsky, business manager, and Louis Friend, chairman of the Cleveland Joint Board, and all the delegates of the Joint Board and the various local officers for the splendid work they are carrying on in behalf of the membership of Cleveland in particular, and for the International Union as a whole.

We sincerely advise the delegates to the present convention to acquaint themselves with the workings of our Cleveland Unions and acquaint the membership of their respective cities with the constructive, intelligent way in which Cleveland officers and active members continuously guard the interests of their membership.

We are glad to note that the Cleveland Joint Board has launched a far-reaching organization drive in the local cloak and dress industry for the establishment of a 100% organized market. A resolution has been passed unanimously by this Convention endorsing this campaign and endorsing a general strike in the event the manufacturers of Cleveland refuse to renew satisfactory agreements. May we at this point, with the unanimous consent of the Convention, express our heartfelt appreciation for the reception and the conveniences prepared for the delegates of the Convention. The Cleveland members and their leadership will at all times be remembered as a group of most intelligent and loyal workers in the cause of labor.

#### Philadelphia

Looking over the portion of the report pertaining to our Philadelphia organization, we find that during the past year the dressmakers union and the cloakmakers union have been placed under one Joint Board management. This merger has been brought about by the majority of the members of the Dressmakers' Local No. 50, and by a large majority of the cloakmakers' local

unions. We hope and expect that the above named locals will carry on the work successfully.

Considering the conditions existing there when the Communists were rampant in that city, we are now happy to state that insofar as the cloakmakers' locals in Philadelphia are concerned, the Communist evil-doers have had very poor luck. When the Communists attempted in August of 1928 to put up an opposition candidate to the regular union candidates, Brothers Domskey, and George Rubin, they were overwhelmingly repudiated. Later the Communists tried to form an opposition union at a meeting held under the protection of the police. This attempt was completely frustrated. The meeting turned into a rally for the International, at which members adopted a pledge to support the International Union to the last ounce of strength and energy and to discipline its disrupters. This rally was a fatal blow to the Philadelphia Communists from which they never recovered.

But we are sorry to state that such has not been the case with the dressmakers. The reason may be that the dressmakers, for the last few years, have had a less compact organization. Whenever the dressmakers have had disagreements with the employers, the Communist scab agency, under various guises, was ready to serve the employers.

The dressmakers were in this sorry

state at the time the New York general strike was declared. With the successful termination of the strike, the remaining loyal elements of that local, under the guidance of Brothers Reisberg, Rubin and Domskey, entrenched their forces, and renewed the struggle against the destructive elements. We are sure that it will not be long before the Philadelphia dressmakers establish a strong and effective union.

The New York strike brought a new spirit to the Philadelphia cloakmakers, and in the middle of July, Vice-President Reisberg, who became manager of the Philadelphia organization in March, 1929, together with George Rubin and Brother Domskey, called a conference with the Philadelphia manufacturers. This agreement in the Philadelphia market was about to expire and our union served notice that they would insist on several improvements in the new agreement. They decided to demand the five-day week instead of the prevailing forty-four hour week, and other modifications. The Joint Board ordered a stoppage on July 30, 1929, which was immediately carried out. The stoppage was a great success. The employers conceded the Union's demands. The Philadelphia Union also organized a number of open shops.

At this point the report was put to vote and carried section by section.

The convention adjourned at 1:30 to 2:30 P. M.

## Eighth Day—Tuesday Afternoon Session

Cleveland, Ohio, December 10, 1929

The convention was called to order at 2:30 by President Schlesinger.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** We shall continue with the Committee on Officers' Report.

Chicago

**DELEGATE KATOVSKY:** Your Committee has read with great interest

that part of the report which deals with the Chicago Cloak and Dressmakers' Union. Chicago, like New York, had to go through great hardships due to the destructive propaganda carried on by that irresponsible group, but we are gratified to report that the cloak and dressmakers' locals of Chicago have for the last year and a half done splendid constructive work.

Right after the Boston Convention,



the Chicago cloakmakers introduced the 40-hour week in the cloak shops in spite of considerable opposition from the employers' association. This achievement again proves that the Chicago Joint Board, of which Vice-President M. Biala is the manager, and Brother Borowitz the chairman, is ably conducting the affairs of the union and exerting every effort in behalf of the membership.

Your Committee also desires to state that the Joint Board of Chicago and its locals have responded splendidly to the bond issue of the International. Your Committee also desires to express its deep appreciation to the Chicago local unions for the splendid support given to the cloakmakers in their strike in New York.

In this connection, it is worth stating that during the time the Communists were ejected by the members from the leadership of the local unions in Chicago, the funds of the local unions comprising the Joint Board, amounted to the sum of \$45,000, which the Communists expected to make use of. But in this they were disappointed, for the rightful owners of that money saw to it that these funds should not fall into the hands of that clique. True enough, they had to go through considerable hardships. The question of ownership was placed in the hands of the local courts. In the spring of 1929, the Joint Board of the Chicago Local Dressmakers Union, through the efforts of Peter Sussman, legal advisor of the I. L. G. W. U. in Chicago, came into possession of its own again. Your Committee, however, cannot help pointing out that while the cloakmakers of Chicago are pretty well organized, it is not so with the dress industry. Of course, we have not forgotten the heroic battle carried on by the dressmakers of Chicago to bring that industry under union control. As yet, we have not met with a satisfactory degree of success. It must be remembered that the dress trade is still the largest branch of the women's garment industry in the Chicago market. We are gratified to note in the report of the General Executive Board that an

intensive campaign is being carried on for the last year and a half with considerable results for the Dressmakers Local No. 100. It must be borne in mind that the Dressmakers Local No. 100 of Chicago was considerably more damaged during and prior to the Communists' control of the local organization than any other local. The Communists all but wiped out every vestige of trade unionism from the dress shops.

From information received from the President, a drive in the dress industry is under way right now and bids fair to embrace the largest number of shops since the strike for the forty-hour week five years ago. It was exceptionally good judgment on the part of the General Executive Board to send Brother David Dubinsky to Chicago. We are more than sure that under the able leadership of Vice-President Morris Biala and the loyal assistance of Brothers Abraham Rabinowitz, Philip Davis, and M. Goldstein, Secretary-Treasurer, there will soon result the establishment of a hundred per cent dress union.

In concluding our remarks about Chicago, we desire to express our heartiest appreciation to Brothers John Fitzpatrick and Edward Nockels, President and Secretary respectively of the Chicago Federation of Labor, staunch friends and supporters. We also wish to recommend that this Convention express gratitude and admiration to Peter Sussman, our loyal Chicago comrade and attorney, to Brothers Rickert and Nelson of the Chicago trade union movement and to Judges Harry Horner and Harry M. Fisher, volunteer industrial arbitrators, who have invaluable been ready to help our members by act and advice.

#### Boston

When our convention adjourned in Boston in 1928, the Boston locals were in a rather precarious situation. The Communists had imported quite a galaxy of their New York stars to convert Boston into a center for the "newly-born Industrial Union." Though these adventurers could never organize a movement that would benefit the workers in

the shops, in view of the fact that Boston is a small market, they nevertheless succeeded in wrecking the organized shops and in sabotaging Union conditions wherever they existed. As an example of their "union activity" may be cited the case of the Worthmore Dress Co., a union shop where they declared a "strike" by issuing, through one of their henchmen, a fake strike order ostensibly coming from the Joint Board. As a result of these activities the Joint Board was compelled to resort to a court order to remove the Communists from the shop and permit the union dressmakers to resume work.

Your Committee appreciates the difficulties which the Joint Board of Boston and its loyal elements encountered. We desire to commend the General Executive Board for being in constant touch with that market and giving it all possible assistance. We consider it very wise on the part of the General Executive Board to have arranged several meetings directly under its own auspices, which were addressed by various vice-presidents sent by the International, namely, Joseph Breslau, Salvatore Ninfo, Max Amdur and Julius Hochman. These meetings brought the desired results.

When Brother Dubinsky visited Boston in connection with the Bond Loan, Boston subscribed for a liberal amount. Also in the time of the general strike in New York, Boston made every effort to cooperate to bring the strike to a successful end.

The Union in Boston today is in much better shape than it has been for several years. A vigorous campaign is being carried on among the cloak and dressmakers of Boston and we are sure that when it will come to a showdown, the cloak and dressmakers of Boston will live up to the traditions of our International Union.

#### Canada

In looking over that part of the report of the General Executive Board pertaining to Canada, that is, Toronto and Montreal, your Committee finds it-

self in accord with the views of the General Executive Board.

In recent years we have been successful in retaining strong organizations in these cities. Nevertheless, we look forward to the time when they will be completely organized. Here, too, the Union must contend with the destruction inherited from the Communists.

Six months after the Boston Convention, the International succeeded in putting the Communists out of office. Our Union was then able to gather together a loyal and active group that had since carried on an extensive educational and organizational campaign for the rebuilding of our Union on a permanent footing. This work has been carried on under the guidance of Vice-President Kirzner. Due to his untiring efforts, the prospects of rebuilding our Union in Toronto are very bright. In this connection, we also wish to state that acting President David Dubinsky, at the request of the Toronto Joint Board, visited that city on September 11th and after conferences with active local workers, found sentiment for a general strike high. In October, while visiting Toronto as delegate to the Convention of the American Federation of Labor, Brothers David Dubinsky and Isidore Nagler addressed a special meeting of the cloakmakers, where the approaching general strike in the trade was fully discussed. As we are informed from the report, James Simpson, Vice-President of the Canadian Labor Congress and J. L. Cohen, attorney, gave valuable aid to our organization.

We also find that Brother David Dubinsky visited Montreal where a number of our members requested our International for help to reorganize the old locals. It is gratifying to hear that there is an eagerness on the part of every worker to contribute something toward the rebuilding of the locals. But even more gratifying is the fact that the people of Montreal have learned through bitter experience that without a union it is hardly possible for any group of workers to protect themselves from greedy employers.

Your Committee in reading over that part of the report submitted by the General Executive Board which deals with Toronto, Canada, found resolution No. 72 of the third session's proceedings, the Resolve of which reads:

#### Resolution No. 72

Introduced by the Toronto and Montreal delegations.

RESOLVED, that this Convention re-affirm the decision of the G. E. B. and instruct the incoming G. E. B. to appropriate a sum of money sufficient to finance the above said general strike in Toronto.

Your Committee recommends concurrence in this resolution and urges that the General Executive Board be authorized and instructed to assist the Toronto Joint Board morally and financially in order to bring about the establishment of an organization which will protect every worker in the industry.

#### Baltimore

In looking over that part of the report submitted by the General Executive Board in reference to the smaller locals outside of New York, we note that in Baltimore where we had quite a local at one time, there is barely an organization in existence now. According to this report the Baltimore local has cost the International a great deal of effort, money and trouble in the past half dozen years. We could not, however, keep up a local in Baltimore because the cloakmakers themselves did not seem to want one.

It seems that now the workers in Baltimore are beginning to realize that unless they build up an organization, there is no possibility at any time of improving their conditions.

Your Committee, therefore, believes and recommends that the incoming General Executive Board should pay close attention to that particular market for the sake of the Baltimore workers and also for the protection of the Eastern organized workers.

#### Western Markets

We now want to call the attention of the Convention to another part of

the report which deals with the Western part of our country, where cloaks, suits and dresses are being made, namely, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Wash., Portland, Oregon, and Kansas City, Mo.

Your Committee, in acquainting itself with the conditions in these markets, also spoke with Delegate Plotkin, who comes from that part of the country, and who has a very interesting story to tell.

So far as Seattle, Wash., is concerned, the cloak, suit and dress industry, is of no importance. The growing centers that contain the potentialities for expansion in the manufacture of ladies' garment apparels are Portland, Kansas City and Los Angeles. In the first named two cities our International has no locals at all.

Your Committee has been informed that in Portland, there are a number of manufacturing plants of ladies' garments that employ between forty and forty-five hundred workers, and do a great deal of business for such concerns as Marshall Field of Chicago, Sears-Roebuck of Chicago and the J. C. Penny Co., as well as for a number of other western mail order houses. No wonder Chicago has been alarmed over the great menace.

Your Committee, therefore, recommends to the delegates of this Convention that they instruct the incoming General Executive Board to initiate campaigns of organization immediately after the adjournment of this Convention, in the above named centers.

We have also read that part of the report which deals with the Whitegoods Workers Union of New York, Local No. 62.

According to the report it appears that the local has not made any headway in organizing the unorganized shops in the industry. Your Committee feels that this standstill is primarily caused by circumstances over which the General Office and the local officers had no control. Your Committee wishes to commend the general officers and local officers, Abraham Snyder in particular, for watching the situation, and looking

for the first opportunity to start an intensive campaign. It appears that the time is fast approaching when the general and local officers will be able to conduct an extensive campaign and bring about complete organization in that industry.

Your Committee is able to state that the New York suburban locals have during the New York cloakmakers' strike rendered splendid service. These locals were actually strike headquarters in every suburban city where cloaks were made; a wonderful display of union solidarity. In Long Island, about 275 girls were locked out from seven Ozone Park shops in December, 1928, after the girls had refused to accept a change from piece work to week work, which the firms had planned to force upon them. This lockout lasted four weeks and then the employers withdrew their request for piece-work, and called back all the workers.

Your Committee, in examining the report of the General Executive Board, noted the decision of the special committee appointed at the last convention in Boston, under the chairmanship of Matthew Woll, Vice-President of the American Federation of Labor, pertaining to the rechartering of the Reefermakers' Local No. 17. In connection with this part of the report, your Committee received Resolutions Nos. 85 and 86, introduced by the delegation of Local No. 2, which read as follows:

#### Resolution No. 85

A letter by the Executive Board of Local No. 2, New York:  
Greetings:—

We hereby wish to file a protest against the action of the G. E. B. at its session held in October, 1928, in re-chartering Local No. 17. Our protest is based upon the following facts:

1—The Special Investigation Committee of the Convention specifically stated that there is absolutely no industrial justification for granting a charter to Local No. 17 and that the charter was given them for political reasons only. Since our Union is not organized for political purposes, but for economical and industrial, Local No. 17, therefore, has no justification for its existence.

2—Subsequent to the granting of the char-

ter, Local No. 17 adopted a policy injurious to the morale of our Union. It has disobeyed every decision and order of the G. E. B. It has taken in members from Local No. 2 without transfers, which is contrary to the constitution and the decision of the G. E. B.

3—The decision of the Special Investigation Committee of the Convention confined Local No. 17 to infants' and children's coats and reefers up to size 15 and 17. We contend that there is no such garment as a reefer made in the cloak industry in New York and because of it, Local No. 17 during the years of its existence employed all means to initiate members working at all kinds of coats of ladies' and misses' sizes.

4—The G. E. B. after censuring Local No. 17 for taking in members from Local No. 2 without transfers, instructed its auditor to investigate the number of violations committed by Local No. 17, and after its findings decided that Local No. 17 refund to Local No. 2 all the money due us equivalent to the per capita. Up to date, however, Local No. 17 failed to comply with the decisions and did not refund the money.

5—During the General Strike of 1929, it was proven that Local No. 17 again willfully violated the decisions laid down by the Special Committee of the G. E. B. and the G. E. B. itself, and has taken in a large number of members from Local No. 2 who were in good standing. When these violations were brought to the attention of the Executive Committee of the General Strike Committee, Local No. 17 was also censured by that body.

6—In the recent strike of 1929 it was also proven that Local No. 17 negotiated secret deals with various members of the General Picket Committee whereby shops taken down and operators employed therein, were brought to Local No. 17 to join as members, irrespective of the line of cloaks manufactured in those shops.

In view of the above we maintain and are ready to prove our contentions that at least two-thirds of the present membership of Local No. 17 consists of workers employed at regular size cloaks, which rightfully belong under the jurisdiction of Local No. 2. This shows that Local No. 17 and Local No. 2, although two separate locals, comprise the same craft of workers and consequently Local No. 17, because of the facts enumerated, has no right to a charter and existence.

We faithfully hope and trust that the Convention will accord this controversy between Locals No. 2 and No. 17 its due and earnest attention and dispose of the matter in the proper manner according to the constitution of the International.

Fraternally yours,

EXECUTIVE BOARD, LOCAL NO. 2  
I. L. G. W. U.

BENJAMIN KAPLAN, Mgr.-Sec'y.  
New York, Nov. 30, 1929.



## Resolution No. 86

Introduced by the Delegation of Local No. 2, New York, the Resolve of which reads:

RESOLVED, that the 20th Biennial Convention of the I. L. O. W. U. now taking place in Cleveland, Ohio, go on record as protesting against the action of the Special Investigation Committee.

Your Committee summoned the representatives of Local No. 2, the introducers of this resolution, and the representatives of Local No. 17, as well as the members of the Special Committee, who are also delegates to this Convention, and who had rendered the previous decision. The representatives of Locals No. 2 contended that the decision of the Committee was unjustified in view of the insertion in their decision of the phrase "organizational, or more accurately termed political considerations," which in the opinion of Local No. 2 was not in accordance with the Constitution of the International and therefore prompted them to bring in this resolution of protest. They further stated that they introduced this resolution because of the non-compliance on the part of the rechartered local with the decision of the Special Committee and the subsequent decision of the Committee appointed by the General Executive Board.

They admitted, however, that since the appointment by the Joint Board of a Committee of Jurisdiction, of which Brother Sorkin of Local No. 9 has served as Impartial Chairman, great progress has been made in the direction of eliminating the misunderstandings that had been constantly arising between the two locals. As a matter of fact, they stated that a uniform rate of initiation fee has been agreed upon by both locals, in order to stop the competition which existed between them since the rechartering of Local No. 17.

Brother Heller, speaking for Local No. 17, expressed his willingness to cooperate with the members of Local No. 2 to avoid repetition of such misunderstanding as had occurred up to now. In regard to the financial claim of Lo-

cal No. 2 and Local No. 17, Brother Heller said the situation complained of had been created prior to his coming into the Local as manager. However, he was willing that another investigation be made and will be satisfied to abide by the findings. A spirit of cooperation was expressed by the delegations of both locals.

Your Committee, therefore, believes that rather than discuss abstract matters this Convention should occupy its time with adjusting the disputes between the locals in our International, in the light of their experience, and in a practical way. We are convinced that the Special Committee in making its decision was guided by a genuine desire to rehabilitate our Union and we therefore urge the incoming G. E. B. immediately after adjournment of this Convention to take up the claims made by Local No. 2 against Local No. 17 and adjust them in such a manner that harmony and good fellowship will be restored, which we are certain will greatly aid the New York operators. We are further of the opinion in view of the better understanding reached by these two locals through the Committee of Jurisdiction, that the incoming General Executive Board be instructed to assist this Committee in every possible way.

## Toledo, Cincinnati and St. Louis

Your Committee has read with interest that part of the report which deals with the Midwestern part of the country. We note that the Cleveland Joint Board has considered it its duty to take charge from time to time of the Toledo and Cincinnati situations.

Your Committee has been informed that insofar as the cloak industry is concerned, Cincinnati is not much of a factor. There has, however, grown up there quite a large dressmaking industry. According to the information we have received, there are about 40 or 45 hundred workers employed in this industry.

We, therefore, deem it very important to recommend to this Convention that the incoming General Executive

Board investigate that market and see what can be done in order to establish an organization in Cincinnati.

As far as the Toledo situation is concerned, your Committee has been informed by the delegates of Toledo that there is a great field and a possibility of establishing a 100% organization in this city. Accordingly, we recommend that the incoming General Executive Board may make every effort possible to give all the assistance necessary to bring about complete organization in this center.

Your Committee also desires, in this connection, to make mention of St. Louis, an important center which has presumably due to an error by the framer of the report of the G. E. B. been omitted. Brother Gilbert of that market, informed your Committee that the dress industry has developed into a great factor employing about five thousand workers. It is therefore the opinion of your Committee that the incoming General Executive Board should be instructed to start a vigorous organization campaign in order to put the St. Louis dress industry under control of the Union.

#### Resolution No. 31

Introduced by delegation of Local No. 80, Boston, the Resolve of which reads:

RESOLVED, that the 20th Convention of the I. L. G. W. U. appoint a committee to visit the various ladies' garment centers, study the facts and sources of this propaganda, and report their findings to the General Executive Board.

Your Committee appreciates the sentiment expressed by Resolution No. 31 and approves of it. However, there are reasons why we recommend non-concurrence in this resolution.

We believe that Communist slander and misrepresentation can best be combatted by a process of education and free discussion. The general officers of the I. L. G. W. U. have been very successful in pursuing this policy and our membership no longer lends credence or respect to what the Communist demagogues say about us or about the labor

movement. We recommend that this campaign of education and enlightenment be continued until the last vestiges of the evils brought about by Communist slander and misinformation are eradicated.

Our objection to the resolution, is that it might be interpreted as an infringement of the right of free speech which has been a cardinal principle of our International. We have no desire to imitate the espionage system of the Communists and set up a Cheka to spy on and hunt out those who voice dissenting opinions.

Your Committee therefore recommends non-concurrence in this resolution.

#### Resolution No. 75

Introduced by Local No. 80, Boston, the Resolve of which reads:

RESOLVED, that the tradition of non-partisan policy of our International be maintained, and that "Giustizia" shall limit itself to news and comments concerning trade questions.

Resolution No. 75 raises the question of policy toward the conduct of the present government of Italy. On this question, the policy of our International is in keeping with the policy of the American Federation of Labor and of the trade union movement of the world. Briefly and simply put, we are opposed to it because it is opposed to the labor movement. It has destroyed the trade unions of Italy and has destroyed those principles of free government that make it possible for the laboring masses to organize and advance themselves economically and socially. It would be unthinkable for the International to order one of its official organs to defend or even to condone such tyranny. Our organ, "Giustizia" does not attack the Italian people. On the contrary, it defends them against this oppression and violence. Nor do we oppose the Italian government as such. We oppose its policies because we consider them opposed to the principles of trade unionism. We would oppose the efforts of any government of any nation which seeks to destroy trade unionism.

Vice-Presidents Ninfo and Antonini appeared before the Committee and argued against the Resolution. Your Committee is convinced that every progressive-minded trade unionist, Italian or non-Italian, condemns the tyranny of that government and would be opposed to any silence on our part that might be interpreted as endorsement of its oppressive policies.

Your Committee therefore recommends non-concurrence in this resolution.

Delegates Di Nola and Antonini supported the report of the Committee and vehemently attacked the Fascist government and its destruction of liberty in Italy, praising the policy of the "Giustizia."

The motion to adopt that section of the report was then put to a vote and carried.

President Schlesinger called the attention of the delegates to a telegram received from Pedro J. Baggia and announced that everything possible would be done to bring about strict enforcement of the Porto Rican minimum wage law.

#### Conclusion of Report

Your Committee wishes at this time to bring in a further recommendation. It is well known to the delegates present that during the dark days of 1925, the salaries of our President and general Secretary-Treasurer were reduced far below the level commensurate with the responsibilities, the duties and the dignity of their positions.

Your committee would not have the Convention understand that it believes the services of your International officers can be rated in dollars and cents. They have brought to your use something more than ability, something more than the experience they have gained in your ranks. These officers have given you a devotion which is never to be found in the market place.

We therefore feel that the question of re-adjusting the salaries of our general officers should be given careful con-

sideration and recommend that the incoming General Executive Board be authorized and instructed to fix the salaries of the incoming General President and General Secretary-Treasurer. In amounts however not exceeding the salaries paid prior to 1925.

In conclusion, your Committee desires to state that the report as a whole submitted to us by the General Executive Board, which is the story of our Union for the last nineteen months, has revealed a real picture of the rejuvenations of our once powerful Union.

On this occasion, your Committee again desires to express its heartiest appreciation to all those who have been helpful in bringing the International back to its former position. Especially do we want to express our deep appreciation to the Jewish Daily Forward, for the untiring support, financial and otherwise, given us in the most trying days of the life of our International.

We also want to thank the Forward for releasing Brother Rich, one of its writers, for the time of the Convention, to perform services for our International convention, and we take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to Comrade Rich for his splendid services.

To Brother and Comrade Edward Levinson we express our deep appreciation for his able and splendid assistance given us at this Convention.

Your Committee also desires to express heartfelt thanks to our friend Richard Robman, the head of our International Publicity Department, who has so ably contributed to the marshalling of public opinion in our favor. Your Committee also wishes at this time to express its thanks to the newspaper men who have so impartially reported the proceedings of our Convention to the public; and to the editors of our publication for the splendid contribution they have made to the work of enlightenment carried on by our International Union.

Our report would not be complete were we not to include thanks for the splendid and wonderful reception we have received from the arrangement committee of our Cleveland locals. We

appreciate the fact that the arrangement committee, in behalf of the Cleveland membership, has given to the delegates of this Convention a most wonderful time. We feel that they were animated by a true spirit of fraternity. The delegates to this Convention will for a long time remember this memorable occasion.

This concludes our report.

Respectfully submitted,

ABRAHAM KATOVSKY.

Cleveland Joint Board, Chairman.

Israel Feinberg, Local No. 2, Sec.,  
B. Fenster, Local No. 3,  
N. Kirtzman, Local No. 9,  
Max Stoller, Local No. 10,  
Jos. Spielman, Local No. 22,  
Carrie Gallagher, Local No. 29,  
I. Wasilevsky, Local No. 35,  
Boris Drasin, Local No. 38,  
Morris Teltel, Local No. 42,  
Alfio Rifci, Local No. 48,  
Max Trubakoff, Local No. 59,  
George Rubin, Local No. 71,  
Ben Gilbert, Local No. 78,  
L. Rosenblatt, Local No. 82,  
C. Iandou, Local No. 89,  
A. Bloomfield, Local No. 50.

The report of the Committee, as amended by the Convention, was put to a vote and carried with the thanks of the Convention.

Thanks to Cleveland Workers

**VICE-PRESIDENT HOCHMAN:** Delegates, we are about to enter the final stage of this Convention. Tonight most of the delegates will leave Cleveland and go home, back to their Union, back to their families. I think that this is the time to say something in appreciation of our Cleveland Union and the wonderful arrangements they have made for this Convention.

I have attended many conventions, and we always have a great deal to say about their splendid arrangements. Our people in all the cities do their utmost to make our conventions a success, but I believe that the arrangements for this Convention have been the best of any I have ever attended. Everything possi-

ble was done for the comfort of each and every delegate. The arrangements were perfect in every way.

I therefore move you, Brother Chairman, that the incoming General Executive Board be instructed to present to the Cleveland Union a token of appreciation to be kept in their office; that a personal token of appreciation be given to the chairmen of the various committees, Brothers Charles Kriendler, Abraham Katovsky, Nathan Solomon, Louis Friend, and Sister Anna Epstein, and that a special resolution be printed or engraved by the International and presented to every member of the Arrangements Committee.

**VICE-PRESIDENT AMDUR:** I would like to include our appreciation of the wonderful reception given to us by the Cleveland membership at the opening of the Convention, and for their splendid attendance at this Convention.

The motion was put to a vote and carried.

Delegate Feinberg read a resolution by unanimous consent pertaining to the relief of Jewish workers in Poland, and moved for the adoption of the resolution.

The motion was put to a vote and carried.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** We will continue with the report of the Committee on Law.

Vice-President Ninfo continued with the revised report of the Law Committee which was adopted, section by section.

The final provisions accepted by the convention regarding the election of officers are as follows:

Amendments to the Constitution:

Section II—A—The President, General Secretary-Treasurer and the G. E. B. shall be nominated at the convention and shall be elected by a referendum of the membership of the I. L. G. W. U.

B—The names of all nominees, who receive a minimum of TWENTY-FIVE of the votes cast by the convention, representing at least five locals, shall appear on the ballot as candidates for the respective offices.

Section IV—A—The election of the General President, the General Secretary-Treasurer



and the members of the General Executive Boards shall be held in the various locals in the same manner and under the same provisions as the election of delegates to International conventions, under the provisions of the International Constitution.

B—A National Election Committee of seven (7) members, no more than five of whom shall be from the City of New York and no more than one from any local union; shall be elected by the convention. The duty of such committee shall be to examine and tabulate the returns from the various locals and to declare the result of the election.

C—The National Election Committee shall have power to supervise the election in any local union through one of its members or through any other person designated by the Committee for that purpose. It shall also have the power, in its discretion, to order a new vote under its supervision if the returns from any local union should appear doubtful.

D—The election of general officers shall be held at a date to be fixed by the G. E. B. but not later than thirty (30) days from the date of closing of this convention. Within twenty-four hours after the close of the polls, the Secretary of each local union shall send by registered mail a full tabulation of the vote of his local union, certified by the local election committee, addressed to the General Secretary-Treasurer of the International and to be delivered by the latter to the National Election Committee.

With this your Committee concludes its report.

Fraternally submitted,

Salvatore Ninfo, First Vice-President  
Chairman

Harry Greenberg, Local 91, Secretary

Bonj. Kaplan, Local No. 2.

H. Newman, Local No. 9.

S. Perlmutter, Local No. 10.

J. Stankewitch, Local No. 17.

Sol Oleesky, Local No. 20.

S. Fremed, Local No. 23.

B. Colker, Local No. 24.

Nathan Solomon, Local No. 28.

Harry Bat, Local No. 27.

Louis Reiff, Local No. 35.

B. Goldberg, Local No. 39.

M. Domesky, Local No. 40.

Saul Brown Local No. 41.

Alfredo Ingulli, Local No. 48.

Harry Dordick, Local No. 53.

Louis Rosenfeld, Local No. 56.

Alfred Dimino, Local No. 80.

In reference to out-of-town vice-presidents, Vice-President Kreindler read the

resolution presented by himself and Vice-President Morris Blais, as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the constitution of the International read so as to provide, first, that six of the fifteen vice-presidents who comprise the General Executive Board shall be chosen from centers other than New York City, and, second, that these six vice-presidents shall come from cities which have either a Joint Board or three locals of the International.

This resolution was withdrawn by its introducers owing to the many new difficulties which arose and the recommendation of the Committee on Law was carried.

VICE-PRESIDENT NINFO: Mr. Chairman, in the name of all the Italian delegates to this Convention I wish to take this occasion to offer our thanks to the chairman and to the Arrangements Committee and to Local No. 44 for taking a special interest in entertaining the Italian delegates.

#### Nomination of Officers

All resolution and motions having been acted on, the Convention at this time proceeded with the nomination of officers.

President Schlesinger in accordance with custom turned over the chair to a former president, Abraham Rosenberg.

Secretary Baroff made the following statement:

#### Statement of Secretary Baroff

The time for the closing of this Convention is drawing near. Very shortly this Convention will take up the nomination for election of general officers. In all fairness to the delegates to this Convention, I find it necessary to announce that I exceedingly regret it is impossible for me to accept an office at this time.

I served this International as general officer for fifteen years. In 1914 I was elected for the first time as a vice-president of the International at a convention in Cleveland. A year later I was honored with the office of secretary-treasurer of the International to fill the unexpired term of Brother Morris Sig-

man, who had resigned then because of ill health. Since then, seven consecutive conventions have paid me the extreme honor of electing me to this office. During the fifteen years I have been connected with the International as one of its chief officers, I served it as loyally, as devotedly as was humanly possible.

The web of my entire life is woven through with the threads of love and suffering that service in a labor organization such as ours entails. It is hard to put down in cold letters what this service has meant for me. There have been days of joy and days of sorrow and I shall not say that one is not as dear to me as the other.

Permit me at this time to lay before you some of the ambitions that have awayed my heart at varying periods of our organization. Call me a sentimental old man, if you will, although I have but rarely given expression to these emotions. In the darkest days of our organization, in the days of utter chaos and confusion, my heart bled and I suffered miserably, suffered not only in spirit but physically as well. Yet I kept myself well in hand so that our friends might not be depressed by my feelings on these occasions.

My eyes have wept when this beautiful organization of ours, this wonderful structure that cost so many sacrifices of hundreds and thousands of our brothers, sisters and colleagues, was being disrupted and destroyed. Those were days of extreme agony and torture to me and it is but small wonder that my health was undermined.

I regret to say that the specialists told me that over-exertion and excitement of any kind may be fatal. If I had myself only to consider, I assure you, my friends, that I would not mind continuing my work to my very last breath and die in harness. But I know that under such a state of health I could not do justice to the performance of my duties to our beloved organization. I hope that the rest that has been prescribed to me by my doctors will restore my health. And if at that time

our Union should find it necessary to call upon me to render it whatever little service I may be in a position to give, I shall do so gladly.

I take with me many pleasant memories of my service and experience in the Union. I know that I have loyally served the ideal of our movement and that I gave to it the best that was in me. I was inspired by the great cause of unionism and workers' solidarity. The friends and comrades I have acquired in my work in the interests of the exploited workers, are my dearest possessions.

To you, delegates, I can but say: Go on with your work. Our members look to you and expect that you will meet all their problems, solve all their difficulties in an intelligent manner. They want and need your service.

I hope you will see to it that this Convention will create thorough solidarity within our ranks. Only in unity can we hope to succeed. All petty jealousies, all personal grievances must be done away with and forgotten. Real unity must replace them. Real unity must be our goal.

At the conclusion of this statement the delegates arose and tendered Secretary Baroff a rousing ovation.

**DELEGATE SAMUEL PERLMUTTER:** I cannot resist the opportunity to say a few words in connection with the statement just made by Brother Baroff regarding his future affiliation with this International Union.

I don't know how many of us really do appreciate the sacrifices and devotion of our generals and leaders in this great army of labor which, after all, stands for the establishment of a better day for all of the workers who create all the wealth.

Brother Baroff has stood at the cradle of this organization. I can remember, as but a child in the year of 1909, when his personality, his poetic soul, stood before thousands and thousands of dress-makers—mostly young girls who worked for miserable wages, and imbued them with the spirit of fight for better living

condition. He stood with us from that year up to the present moment. He has gone through with us our most trying moments.

The General Executive Board, because of his personality and qualifications, has found it necessary time and again to urge him to remain with us.

I, therefore, say to this Convention—and I am certain that I am expressing the sentiments of each and every delegate—that we wish and we want to express our regret and sorrow at the inability of Brother Baroff to continue his services to the International because of his state of health.

I also want to make a motion that a committee of this Convention be appointed to confer with our President immediately after the adjournment of the Convention, and if necessary a committee of the General Executive Board—to work out a plan whereby we can still avail ourselves of the services of Brother Baroff for our International Union. I move to that effect.

The motion was seconded, put to a vote and carried.

**DELEGATE POLAKOFF** (Local No. 75): I am also one of those who have known Brother Baroff for many years. I have known him for more than twenty-five years. I fully share in the sentiments expressed by Brother Perlmutter. A small committee has been organized consisting of Brothers Reisberg, Hochman, Greenberg and myself, who are really very near to him, as we thought it would be appropriate at this moment to give something to Brother Baroff so that he will remember his good friends. With the permission of the Convention I will call on Brother Reisberg to present this token of appreciation to Brother Baroff.

**DELEGATE REISBERG** (Local No. 50): You all know my sentiments for Brother Baroff. Convention after convention I have been honored to nominate Brother Baroff as Secretary-Treasurer of our Union. Now that he is leaving us because of ill health, I want to say to him that we will never forget

his warm heart that has been beating for our labor movement and for your International; we will never forget his face that expresses sympathy and kindness to those who need it.

I also want to say to Brother Baroff that we do not want him to forget us, and we thought in our humble way we would present him with a wrist watch. He will always wear it on his hand and when he looks at it he will think of his friends, of all the members of this International Union, who love him, have always loved him, will always love him, and never, never forget him. (Applause).

The delegates arose and applauded and cheered. A number of girls, delegates to the Convention, entered the hall with a bouquet of flowers which they presented to Secretary Baroff.

**VICE-PRESIDENT MOLLIE FRIEDMAN**: We are not saying goodbye to Brother Baroff. We absolutely refuse to do so. You saw us march up with flowers. Those flowers are given by Baroff's sisters. He has been our inspiration. He has encouraged us to go on with the fight until we won.

Baroff is taking a vacation. We ought to send him off to his vacation with cheers and tell him, "Baroff, take a rest and then come back to us." (Applause).

**Nomination of President Schlesinger**

**DELEGATE FEINBERG** (Local No. 2): I arise at this time to place before you for your consideration the nomination of a man who will have to in the future, as he has in the past, marshal and conduct the force of our International Union for the purpose of improving the workers' conditions.

This man was at the helm of the organization from 1914 until 1921. He has established a reputation for our International, not only in this country but in the entire labor movement of the world. He has led us in many battles. I am sure you all remember his leading us through the battle of 1916. He displayed a spirit at that time that compelled the manufacturers to take back the workers

under the same conditions of which they had endeavored to deprive them.

I am proud to say that this day, assembled in Cleveland, again under the guidance of the man I am going to present to you, we are able to say that we are not only a sweet memory, but we are again surging to the forefront with a fighting spirit that will make our Union not only as magnificent as it was years ago, but still stronger, more powerful, more effectively protecting the tens of thousands of workers composing this great International Union.

I take great pleasure in placing the name of Brother Benjamin Schlesinger before you as nominee for president of our International Union.

The audience arose, applauded and cheered.

**DELEGATE NAGLER** (Joint Board, New York): In rising to second the nomination of the man who has been placed before us today as the candidate for president of our International Union we are all mindful of the fact that it is not the first time that this honor has been bestowed upon him.

In listening to the opening remarks of this Convention we heard that in the City of Cleveland in the year 1903 and again in the year 1914 he was elected to head our International Union. I cannot remember prior to the year 1910, but our International Union has had a great history since he was elected its president in the City of Cleveland in 1914. For nine consecutive years he led our Union from success to success. He has been in the forefront of the American labor movement. He made our International Union feared by its enemies and admired by its friends.

When he offered his resignation in 1923, I am glad to say that the representative of Local No. 10 on the G. E. B. was the only one to vote against it.

Nineteen months ago the delegates of this very local, No. 10, and others, came to the conclusion that it would be essential to bring back within our ranks the man who had done most to strengthen our International and ask him to lead us. It is not in my own name alone

but in the name of the entire membership of Local No. 10 that I take pleasure in seconding the nomination of Benjamin Schlesinger for president of our International.

#### President Schlesinger's Acceptance of Nomination

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** I do not arise to say No, but I want to tell you something that has to do with my acceptance. I want you to know that in this last year and a half, although I have contributed my share to the rebuilding and rehabilitating of the Union, there were people who have done considerably more than I have. I do not say that because I want to be modest for I am old enough to be able to tell the truth.

I am not speaking now of the devotion that we have seen on the part of our workers or on the part of the officers of every local union. If the response of all workers had not been what it was it would not have been possible for any group of officers to do anything at all. I merely want to speak now of those who have assisted me in this work and I want to tell all of you that there was at least one man who has done more than I have in bringing back this organization to its present state and that man is Brother Dubinsky. (Applause.)

Brother Dubinsky has done great and effective work as acting president. During the time when I had not yet discovered from my illness we reached a point where our means, our resources were exhausted. It occurred then to me to raise money by issuing a bond. I want to tell you now that the only person who made me carry through this proposition was Brother Dubinsky. If I had not been able to get Dubinsky to agree to it I would never have undertaken it and the result might have been quite different, so it was not only the work he did while I was in the hospital but also the work he did before I became ill. I mean at the time we issued the manifesto.

Everybody helped, Secretary Baroff,



Vice-Presidents Breslau, Antonini, and the others, but when it comes to Dubinsky I have no words to express my feelings. I am not trying to be modest, or minimize my importance. I think I have made some contribution, but he is largely responsible for the success you had last July, and deserves more credit than I do.

When I was sick and I did not think it would be possible for me to come to the Convention, the question of officers came up and I wanted Dubinsky for president. I wanted to make the nomination and urge upon him and upon every delegate that he accept for he is qualified and he is the only man qualified, for he has so much vitality, so much energy to serve you. I wanted Brother Dubinsky for president and Brother Baroff for secretary. When I learned that Brother Baroff could no longer serve as secretary, I realized that unwell as I am I could not accept the presidency unless I had someone in the office able to share the work. I believe I have made my position clear to you. (Applause.)

**SECRETARY BAROFF:** I regret that since we must yet nominate the delegates to the A. F. of L. there isn't enough time for me to say what I should like to say in nominating the second highest officer of the International, the man for secretary of our Union, the man to succeed me. I have known Brother Dubinsky for a great many years. I have known him working, carrying on the ideals of one of the best locals in the city of New York. I remember that when he began work in that local, the Union was not in as good condition as it is now. Yet, through his able leadership, his devotion and the energy he put in, he made that local union today the outstanding local in our International.

I have had a chance to watch this Brother lately at his work and I have learned to love him for his admirable qualities, for his devotion, his loyalty, and especially the soul in him. I find it hard to put into words my opinion of him. He is certainly one of the best

that we have in our midst, and I do not think there is anyone to succeed to my office who would be more fit to hold it than my friend and your friend, David Dubinsky, who is my candidate for secretary and treasurer.

The members arose and applauded.

**VICE-PRESIDENT HOCHMAN:** Mr. Chairman, I arise to second this nomination. In President Schlesinger's acceptance of the nomination for the presidency he made it very clear that he accepted only on condition that he have in the office a man, not only a good secretary and treasurer, but also able to help him. It is fortunate that we are able to present so able a man in the person of David Dubinsky to take over much of the work of our International. I am proud to second the nomination of David Dubinsky for the office of secretary and treasurer.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** Brother Dubinsky, do you accept this nomination?

**VICE-PRESIDENT DUBINSKY:** I accept. I consider it a great honor to be nominated to this second most important office in our organization and it is a special honor to have been nominated by that veteran in our International, Brother Baroff. (Applause.)

Comrade Hillquit attended the convention at which President Schlesinger was nominated for the office of Executive Vice-President. You will remember that he hesitated about accepting, and said, "I'll ask Hillquit whether I should accept." You know the answer. I know it was very fortunate that he answered as he did. I hope that it will be the same today, for when Comrade Hillquit—who is the brains of our movement, who is the man whom we consult in every important step in our Union, a man whom we have learned to love and admire and be guided by his advice—gives the answer, I don't believe there is anyone in our organization who could say differently. However, I hesitate a little about accepting, for if I accept the job I want to make good.

I have come to the conclusion, Bro-

ther President, that after all we have accomplished something during the last ten months, something worthwhile and of which we may be proud. If anyone had told me ten months ago that these things were possible, I would have considered that individual a dreamer. The most optimistic persons in our ranks hardly believed we would be able to rebuild our Union within that time. A miracle happened but it happened because of good leadership. It has taken devotion, it has meant a lot of sacrifice on the part of the officers, on the part of the membership, on the part of the active workers, on the part of the President, and on the part of every one else.

Let me say, Brother President, since it has been possible to accomplish so much during the last few months, and knowing that you are going to serve and lead this organization, that you are willing to give your life, your energy, and your ability to further upbuilding of our Union. I can't help saying, "Yes, I will work with you." (Applause.)

I hope I will have a chance to make good. I know it is a hard and difficult task, but let me say this: I am confident it will be all right in the end. Even in the darkest days I had a little optimism, and I think I still have it with me. I only hope and pray that Secretary Baroff will come to my assistance. Secretary Baroff with your ability, your wisdom, if you will guide me, I will be only too glad to learn by your experience. With your guidance, and with the leadership of President Schlesinger, I am confident that our Union will go on to even greater victories. (Thunderous applause.)

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** Nominations are now open for First Vice-President.

**DELEGATE NAGLER:** Seven years ago in the city of Cleveland, I had the honor and the pleasure of presenting to the delegates of that convention the candidate for the office of First Vice-President of our International Union, whom I am now about to nominate. I am sure that the delegates assembled at

this Convention and those who have worked with him in the organization, especially in the city of New York, know of the valuable services he has rendered to our International Union for the past twenty-five years.

It gives me great pleasure to present to this Convention the name of Salvatore Ninfo, as candidate for First Vice-President.

The members arose and applauded.

The nomination was seconded by Delegates Breslau and Antonini and a number of others. Vice-President Salvatore Ninfo accepted.

Nominations for other candidates for Vice-Presidents then took place.

**DELEGATE LOUIS LANGER** (Local No. 35): To prove to you that the person whom I about to nominate has the confidence of the membership, permit me to relate to you one fact that is outstanding among all other facts of our International. When we were brought back into our International, the organization that I have the honor to represent at this Convention was penniless. This man called together all the active men of our organization, and appealed to them for loans for the organization, with no prospect of repayment. Every active member responded, and loans of \$25, some \$50, and of \$100, were offered by them. One of the members of our organization who had saved a little for himself and his family, loaned \$5,000 to the organization. Wasn't that a wonderful demonstration of confidence, loyalty and devotion?

At a time when our entire membership was totally demoralized, when the International and the Joint Board were financially on the rocks, the man I am about to nominate, with his ability, courage and confidence, drafted the best men of the organization into service in behalf of the Joint Board.

For his keen knowledge of the organization, his ability to observe things that come up in the organization from time to time, his ability to analyze its problems and for all the virtues he pos-

resses, he is loved and almost worshipped by the membership.

It, therefore, gives me great pleasure to propose as a member of the General Executive Board, the leader of the cloak and dress pressers of the city of New York, Brother Breslau. (Applause.)

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** I see by the applause that the nomination is seconded. We shall proceed with the next nomination.

**EX-PRESIDENT ROSENBERG:** I do not care to make a long introductory speech and tell the qualifications of the man whom I desire to nominate. I only want to say that his Brother has held the highest office in the Joint Board of the city of New York. Many of the delegates know his qualifications; those who don't know, should inquire of the New York delegation.

To make a long story short, he is a man who knows the business, and you may feel gratified to know that when he left his office he became a plain proletarian, a worker in a cloak shop. That is why it gives me great pleasure to nominate for the office of Vice-President my colleague, my fellow-delegate from my own Local No. 2, Brother I. Feinberg. (Applause.)

The nomination was seconded by Delegates Robert Trehub, of Local No. 73, A. Plotkin, of Local No. 8, and many others.

**DELEGATE NATHAN MARGOLIES** (Local No. 22.): It gives me great pleasure to nominate a man whom you all know, and who I believe is the best man of our local. In the name of the delegation and as chairman of Local No. 22, I take the privilege of nominating Brother Julius Hochman for Vice-President. (Applause.)

The nomination was seconded by Delegate Rose Mirsky, of Local No. 23 and many others.

**DELEGATE HATTAB** (Local No. 66.): I rise to nominate a man who has served on the General Executive Board for the last fifteen years, who has been

a member of our International for the last twenty years, and president of the Joint Board for three years; manager of Local No. 9 for a few years, general manager of the New York Dressmakers' Joint Board, and last but not least, in charge of the Out-of-Town Department of our International for many, many years. You all know him and of the strikes that have been conducted so successfully under his management.

The last bit of service that he has been able to render to our organization was the building up of Local No. 41, of which he is now the manager.

Brother President, I place in nomination the name of Jacob Halpern. (Applause.)

The nomination was seconded by Delegate Max Grackin, of Local No. 41, and others.

**DELEGATE H. FRIED** (Local No. 2): I rise to nominate a delegate of our local Union as Vice-President on the incoming General Executive Board. Although this individual is very young in our organization, yet because of his ability he has won recognition during the short time he has been active in our Union.

At one time he was the Chairman of the Joint Board, and now he is the manager of our Local Union. I have the pleasure to nominate Brother Kaplan as Vice-President on the incoming General Executive Board. (Applause.)

The nomination was seconded by Delegate Kirtzman and others.

**DELEGATE MORRIS LEVENTHAL** (Local No. 17): It gives me joy and pleasure at this moment to present to you the name of a man who is known for his intelligence, ability and clear-mindedness.

The qualities that an ordinary worker considers essential are intelligence, systematic agitation, a knowledge of the problems of the workers, above all a human heart, a human soul. This Brother whom so many workers admire and love has these qualifications.

He has been a member of the Gen-

eral Executive Board and those who have served with him know what a brilliant mind he has. I have the honor of presenting to you the name of Brother Jacob Heller.

The nomination was seconded by Delegate Chancer and others.

**DELEGATE PERLMUTTER:** I am going to nominate a delegate—and I am sure that when I am back in New York nobody will give me a single argument—and he is going to be elected. (Applause). I want to say that the candidate has been doing the work of the International in a real Jimmy Higgins fashion. He has done it so well that during a very short period he has risen to the highest office in our Union in the City of New York.

It was this man, who notwithstanding all the sneers and insults flung at him, met with cloakmakers day in and day out to try to make them understand the necessity of backing our International and the American Federation of Labor against the enemy of labor.

It was he, who, because of his sincerity, loyalty and devotion to the International and to the American labor movement, has time and time again been elected as a delegate to the American Federation of Labor. I want to say that the old workers and leaders of the American Federation of Labor to whom I have spoken have nothing but praise for my candidate.

I want to present to you the present General Manager of the Joint Board of the New York Cloakmakers, Brother Nagler. (Applause.) The nomination was seconded with applause.

**DELEGATE B. ROSENBERG** (Local No. 9): I want to nominate a young man; at least he may be young in years, but to my knowledge he is old in experience and in union work. He has held the most responsible position during the last general strike in New York in 1929. He was the Chairman of the Organization Committee.

Tens of thousands of workers were under his management. Hundreds of shop meetings were held before the

workers returned to their benches, and passed resolutions expressing their love and appreciation for the work that he did. I nominate Brother Kirzman, of Local No. 9. (Applause.) The nomination was seconded with applause.

**DELEGATE CHARLES JACOBSON** (Local No. 23): I rise to nominate for Vice-President a man who is well known, and whom every one regards as one of the most capable men to have on the General Executive Board; a man of clear-thinking and far vision. I had occasion to observe his ability in the nineteen years in which we were locally associated. I also had the opportunity to observe his work at close range in Boston for two years when I was actively engaged in organization work.

He has performed one of the miracles that our International Union has lived through since the reorganization period. He was made the treasurer of one of the largest organized units of our International body, and if anyone succeeded in keeping the New York sheriff and all his deputies from closing our doors, it was this man.

I believe that his past record as a member of the General Executive Board speaks for itself. I, therefore, take great pleasure to place before the Convention the name of Harry Wander, of our local. (Applause.)

**DELEGATE REIFF:** I have a speech prepared, but knowing that the Convention does not elect the nominee, I shall reserve my speech for another occasion in favor of Brother Harry Wander. (Applause).

**DELEGATE LICAUSI** (Local No. 91): I take pleasure in placing before this Convention the name of a young man who has done a great deal toward bringing our local up to its present standard, Brother Harry Greenberg of Local No. 91.

**DELEGATE DIMINO** (Local No. 80): I take pleasure in seconding the nomination of Brother Greenberg.

**DELEGATE STOLLER** (Local No. 10): I want to call your attention to



an outstanding leader in the dressmakers' Locals of New York City and to place him in nomination for Vice-President. I nominate Brother Luigi Antonini of Local 89.

First Vice-President Ninfo, Delegate Shapiro, Delegate Iandoli seconded the nomination of Luigi Antonini as did many others by a show of hands.

**DELEGATE F. SHAPIRO** (Local No. 62): I wish to nominate a man who has been a member of our Union for the past twenty or more years, and who has been active in the work of the Union. It is a pleasure to present the name of a member of our local, our manager, Brother Snyder, as nominee for Vice-President of our International Union.

Delegate Hattab, Delegate Friedman, Delegate Glushakow and others seconded the nomination.

**DELEGATE FRIEND:** I rise to nominate the most popular man at this Convention. It is the third time I have had the pleasure of nominating him. He has served on the General Executive Board for two terms with devotion. It gives me pleasure to place before you the name of Charles Kreindler.

**DELEGATE KATOVSKY:** I take pleasure in seconding the nomination.

**DELEGATE FEITELSON** (Local No. 5): I rise to nominate a man whom I know, not only for his work on the General Executive Board but also in the shop and as an officer of our Union for a number of years. He has made it his business to watch carefully that the Union should not be destroyed. He has inspired all the activities of the Chicago Local. I take great pleasure in placing before you the name of Morris Blalis.

**DELEGATE RUFER** (Local No. 59): I second the nomination.

**DELEGATE KRAMER** (Local No. 73): I rise to nominate a man who has done a great deal for the membership of Boston. In fact, I believe we can say that if it were not for him and for what he has done there the Boston delegates would not be present at this Convention.

I take great pleasure in presenting the name of Brother Max Amdur to you for Vice-President.

Delegate Trehub, Delegate Dordick and others seconded the nomination.

**DELEGATE BLOOMFIELD** (Local No. 50): I rise to nominate a man who served us well during our troubles in the Philadelphia Union. After the struggle of 1916 he did a great deal toward rebuilding our Union. I therefore take great pleasure in nominating Brother Elias Reisberg.

\* Delegate Levine, Delegate Spelman, Vice-President Amdur and others seconded the nomination.

**DELEGATE NEWMAN** (Local No. 12): I wish to nominate a man from the city of Boston, a young man in years but an old man in experience. He did a great deal for us in that city when the Communists had the control of our Union. It was he who kept the members together. It is a pleasure for me to nominate Brother Kramer of Boston.

Vice-President Hochman, Delegate Polakoff and others seconded the nomination.

**DELEGATE KRAISMAN** (Local No. 92): I wish to place before you the name of Abraham Kirzner of Toronto, a representative of the labor movement of that city and in Canada generally. It is due to his leadership that we have come out of the struggle against the Communists and have been able to keep a semblance of a trade union in Toronto. I take great pleasure in placing the name of Brother Kirzner before you.

Delegate Abrams and others seconded the nomination.

There were no further nominations for vice-president and the Convention proceeded to the election of delegates to the convention of the American Federation of Labor.

#### Delegates to A. F. of L. Convention

The following delegates were nominated:

Basilio Desti, Local No. 48,  
Max Cohen, Local No. 35.

Benjamin Moser, Local No. 2.  
Joseph Spielman, Local No. 22,  
A. Katovsky, Joint Board, Cleveland.  
David Fruhling, Local No. 10,  
Leon Hattab, Local No. 66,  
Boris Drasin, Local No. 38.

The following were appointed tellers for the election of A. F. of L. delegates:

Mr. Lavelle of the Cleveland Plain Dealer,  
Jacob Rich of the New York Forward,  
Mr. Wisenfeld of the Cleveland "Welt."

**VICE-PRESIDENT HOCHMAN:** Up to this time we have not adopted any resolution expressing our appreciation for the wonderful work done by our sergeants at arms. They have served faithfully and I move that we extend to them our thanks for their splendid work.

The motion was seconded and carried.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** We have to elect a committee of seven to supervise the election of General Officers, five from New York and two from outside of New York.

Vice-President Hochman suggested that a committee of five be appointed to bring in seven names to suggest to this Convention. The following were appointed:

M. Jacobs, Local No. 10,  
Ch. Margolies, Local No. 22,  
M. Blalla, Local No. 59,  
I. Nagler, Joint Board New York,  
I. Friend, Chairman Joint Board of Cleveland.

The committee submitted the following names:

Heins, Belson, Molisnio, Rose Mirsky, Reiff, Solomon, Borowitz.

Upon motion they were officially elected.

**PRESIDENT SCHLESINGER:** I want to say that the committee of seven will not be able to supervise the elections of each local. We will surely have to call upon someone in the various locals to help in this work and every local will come into it.

While the tellers were out counting the votes of the candidates to the A. F. of L. convention, the delegates sang songs of labor and the revolutionary movement, and a spirit of the most cordial fraternity prevailed.

#### Result of the Election

A. Katovsky, 132 votes.  
David Fruhling, 118 votes.  
Benjamin Moser, 115 votes.  
Basillo Desti, 112 votes.  
Max Cohen, 99 votes.  
Joseph Spielman, 74 votes.  
Boris Drasin, 47 votes.  
Leon Hattab, 43 votes.

The following were elected.

A. Katovsky.  
David Fruhling.  
Benjamin Moser.  
Basillo Desti.  
Max Cohen.

At 7:30 P. M. President Schlesinger adjourned the Convention sine die.

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